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*The Brethren*  
**EVANGELIST**

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**CHURCH**

*plus*

**SEMINARY**

*January 1976*





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## The Brethren

# EVANGELIST

VOL. XCVIII

JANUARY

NO. 1

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## NOTES and COMMENTS



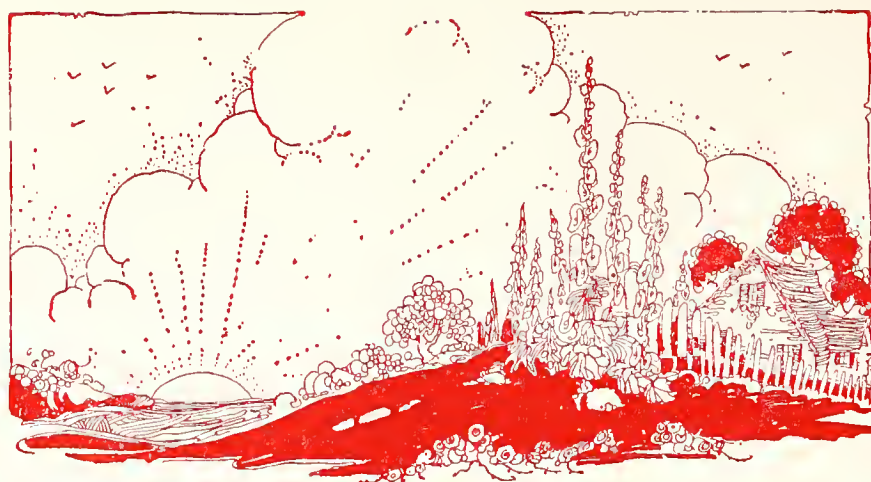
A new drama entitled "Bicentennial" had its premier presentation January 1, 1976 at 12:00 A.M. and we trust this year of our Lord 1976 has been ushered to the "best seats in the house". We sincerely hope that as the production continues daily with its morning, matinee, and evening performances that there will be nothing but praise issuing forth from the critics at the close of the play's run.

With the subject of continuity on our minds, we are reminded that the Brethren Publishing Company has had many changes in its scenic

backdrops over the years since 1884 along with changes in scenario and cast along the way. This issue carries an announcement of some recent changes made in this respect.

It is also the first issue to be published on a monthly basis and is increased a bit in page size and has a few format changes. Page 22 of this issue explains a change in the cast and plans for future presentations. Page 4 contains the dialogue which brings down the curtain on the performance of one of the characters who has had himself written out of the script.

Prominently featured in this issue is the special emphasis of the Ashland Theological Seminary with the theme "A NEW WIND IS BLOWING". Be sure to read this section and familiarize yourself with the latest developments and progress at ATS.



## EDITORIAL SUNSET

Little did your editor realize in May of 1970 as he selected the cover for the first issue of **THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST** bearing his name in the mast-head as Editor of Publications that the title was most appropriate. "Spring Song."

As Spring heralds in the new season of nature, likewise was this venture for him a new season although he was entering the "autumn years". As Spring bursts forth in myriads of shades of green, in like manner was this color characteristic of his experience in a field of new endeavour. As the overture opens the concert of the cheery songs of our innumerable feathered friends, the deep-throated hum of a diesel engine was changed to the multiple voiced choir of typewriter, Lino-type machine, various types of printing presses, folder, stitcher etc.

The contrast between the "armstrong" manipulation of a gear shift lever of a 'ten-speed' transmission and a fingertip touch of an electric typewriter was one that was difficult to comprehend, let alone even dream of becoming a challenge of accomplishment.

I can readily affirm that it is only by His matchless Grace and help along with the efforts of dedicated co-workers who definitely possess a "walk the extra mile" attitude in providing the guidance needed to hike a strange trail that has turned an undreamed of career, although relatively short, into an unforgettable facet of life that has truly been a mountain-top experience, in this instance, a fringe benefit that doesn't ever appear in the fine print of any agreement.

I thank God for having directed my life these past few years in which I have had the honor and privilege to become acquainted with representatives of various publishers of Christian literature and with many authors personally. With so many of our Brethren as I was afforded the opportunity to visit the various districts and be a part of their conferences. For the many occasions

I had the privilege to have fellowship with members of various denominations as fellow-editors and bookstore managers. For the few occasions I had the extreme pleasure to visit sites which were historically connected with the early Brethren.

I would have perhaps never have had the time nor the opportunity to have access to books and documents that portray the heritage of the Brethren denomination and have revealed to me the importance of the preservation of that heritage.

I wish to express my everlasting gratitude to the many, many Brethren throughout the denomination who have been so gracious to me in so many ways with their support.

The Brethren Publishing Company has become one of the most meaningful periods in my life, especially so, due to my association with it these past few years and trust that the realization of what a tremendous responsibility it has to provide the world with His Holy Word and literature relevant to it will be foremost in the minds of all our Brethren people.

In every person's life there comes a time when the autumn leaves begin to fall and the time has come to make room for the buds that will be forming soon for the new spring season.

There are so many phases of my tenure as Editor of Publications that I would like to express my deepest feelings for and with all the words that are at any person's command, there are not enough or the right ones to literally manifest them adequately.

I fervently hope that the new outlook and projected future of **THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST** will receive the whole-hearted support, both prayerfully and financially, of the entire Brotherhood. It is my most earnest prayer and desire that those who will take up the editorial pen after me will receive the consecrated prayerful support and encouragement needed from all Brethren to stay on a true course. (GS)



# Ashland Theological Seminary





# "A NEW WIND IS BLOWING ..." (John 3)

## NEW PHYSICAL RESOURCES—

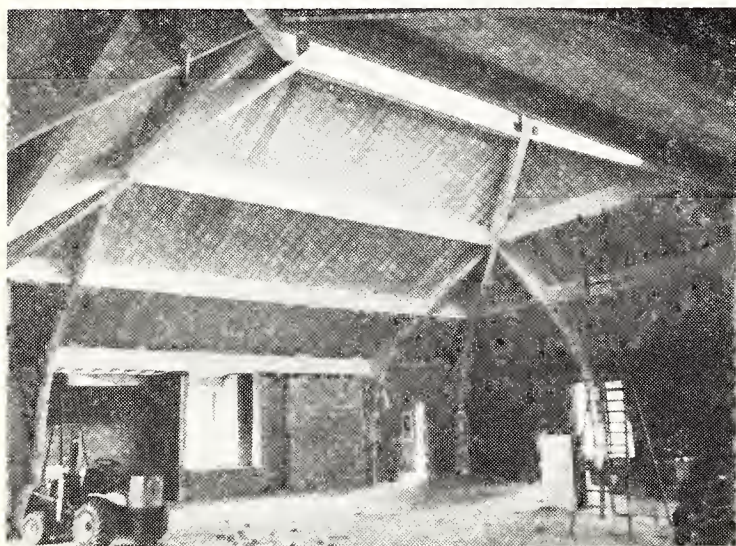
### *Ronk Memorial All-Purpose Chapel*

Living means growing. Because of the strong conservative Biblical program at the Seminary, many students have enrolled at Ashland for preparation of a life in the Gospel ministry. The increased number of men and women who have felt the "wind of the Holy Spirit" and responded to the call of the ministry requires additional resources. The classes were too big for the small classrooms—the chapel was too small for service—and the books and Brethren Archives had outgrown the library. These basic needs will be cared for by the added resources of the new all-purpose chapel.

The construction is on target. All walls are completed, all drives and walks are built, the electrical and mechanical parts are now being installed.

Trustees approved the project on a "cash basis only". Many individuals in the church have given, some sacrificially, in order that construction could continue. Cash and pledges, payable in 1975, will cover the basic construction cost.

Items not now covered by cash and/or pledges: (1) painting and varnishing—\$2,500; (2) carpet—\$4,700; (3) moving of organ—\$1,200; (4) razing houses and preparing parking lot—\$3,000.



*Memorial Chapel Interior  
under construction*



*Ronk Memorial Chapel*

**We praise God that the building is being constructed and that there will be no indebtedness. The chapel will be used for the preparing of thousands of men and women for the primary task of the church—evangelization of the world!**

**INVEST:** In one of the best seminaries in the United States, in the future, in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



# "A NEW WIND IS BLOWING ..." (John 3)

## STUDENT BODY—

### *Past and Present*

The student body of Ashland Theological Seminary, past and present, forms a strong community of faith serving the Lord around the world. The new generation of students is marked by a determination to study God's Word and is motivated to follow God's will. Students are sharing and witnessing their faith as never before. The 1975-1976 student body of approximately two hundred is a living proof of the dynamic movement of the Holy Spirit in the world today:

An insurance salesman—now a Brethren Seminary student.

A young man converted on the Indiana Turnpike—now studying for missions.

An engineer at General Electric for twelve years—now preparing for lay evangelism.

A bank examiner, once a Roman Catholic—now preparing for the Gospel ministry.

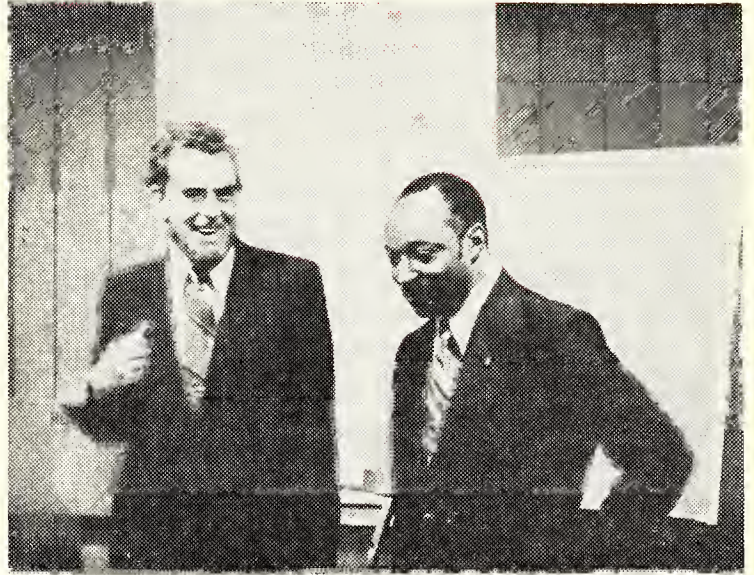
A young woman—preparing for chaplaincy in a women's prison.

Ordained pastors, now re-studying the Bible in ministry.

A number of black pastors who never had opportunity of preparation—now studying the Book of Romans, Old Testament I, and Pastoral Counseling.

Two hundred students from twenty states holding degrees from eighty-two colleges and universities, representing thirty-five denominations—studying basic Biblical courses.

What greater mission could the Brethren Church have than to support a conservative seminary where the Bible is taught faithfully? Isn't it also wonderful that while we are doing God's will and teaching and training men for the Gospel ministry, we at the same time are receiving over \$100,000 in tuition?



*Dr. Charles Munson in jovial repartee with Dr. James Massey*

"A new wind is blowing . . ."—also among the alumni of Ashland Theological Seminary: Six new churches built by Seminary alumni last year; eight new mission fields staffed by Seminary alumni; three new professors of Bible from Seminary alumni; countless pastors and teachers faithfully serving the church in the heart of America—

A new wind is blowing in the Seminary. May the windows and the doors of the church be opened to feel and realize the dynamic movement of the Spirit of God today!





# "A NEW WIND IS BLOWING ..." (John 3)

## IN THE BRETHREN MINISTRY

In each generation, God calls persons for the proclamation of His Gospel, for teaching of the Bible, for missions, for church leadership, etc. He commands us: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."

Retirement/replacement, sickness, new church leadership roles, new mission fields, and specialized ministries **demands a number of new men each year** entering the ranks of the Brethren ministry. Opportunities are limited only by our vision and faith. The needs are apparent to those who are willing to look at the facts.

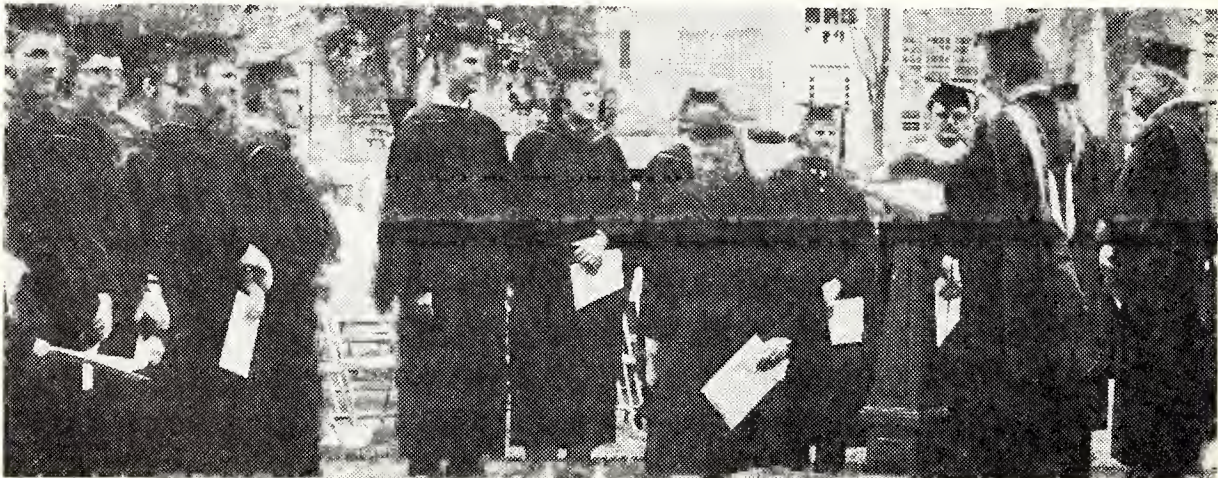
There are a number of excellent Brethren young persons in pre-seminary and seminary training—**BUT NOT ENOUGH!** There are less Brethren young people coming from our homes, Sunday School classes, and our church entering the ministry than in previous years. What can be done?

1. Meetings are being arranged in every District to explain the Christian ministry and encourage young people to heed the call of God in their lives. Pastors and parents are also urged to give this matter top priority.
2. The growth of the Seminary has provided a "pool" of young men who are looking for a church home. Other churches have bishops and/or district superintendents to guide young men into their church ministries. Since the Brethren Church does not have this kind of organization, the Seminary is asking six or eight select churches to hire potential young men for the Brethren ministry as associate pastors for a one or two-year term. This would provide an excellent supervised training and a bridge into the Brethren ministry. The investment in such a program would repay itself many times over.



3. Short-term intern programs whereby students can experience the pastorate under good circumstances.

The "wind of the Spirit of God" is calling hundreds, even thousands, of men and women to the Gospel ministry. We pray and trust that the Brethren Church can experience this movement of the Spirit today. The Brethren Church in its early history received many leaders in just such a manner. Please pray the Lord of the harvest!



*Dr. Shultz presenting diplomas to Seminary graduates*



# FAIR SHARE GIVING

The primary purpose of the continuance of the ongoing church in the world is for EVANGELIZATION. EVANGELIZATION of the world requires Gospel preachers, teachers, missionaries, and leaders. Upon this basis, the church inevitably must support the Seminary which is primarily responsible for the training of Gospel preachers, teachers, etc. Five dollars per member has been suggested by General Conference as a fair share for the life of the Seminary.

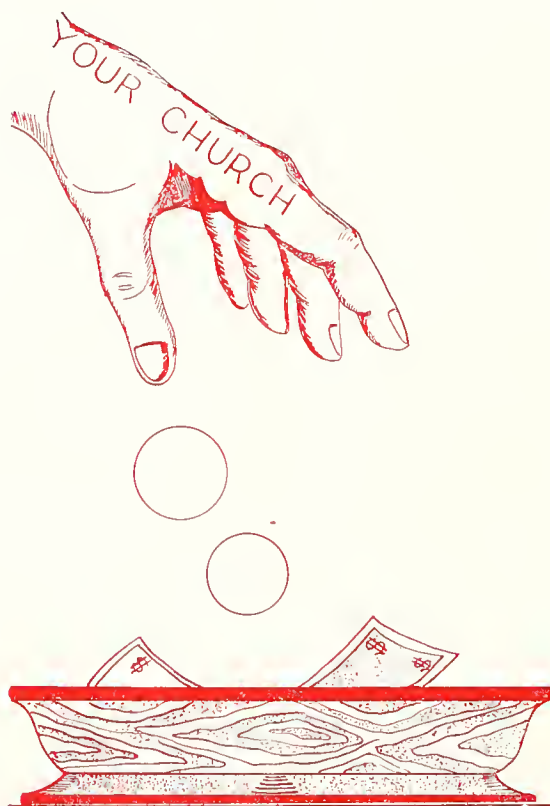
**NAME OF CHURCH   MEMBERSHIP × FIVE DOLLARS PER MEMBER = FAIR SHARE GIFT**

Ardmore	226	\$1,130.00	Lanark	248	1,240.00
Berlin	405	2,025.00	Lathrop	174	870.00
Bethlehem	59	295.00	Liberty	40	200.00
Bradenton	35	175.00	Linwood	127	635.00
Brighton	94	470.00	Loree	190	950.00
Brush Valley	191	955.00	Lost Creek	92	460.00
Bryan	367	1,835.00	Louisville	264	1,320.00
Burlington	228	1,140.00	Main Street	128	640.00
Calvary	17	85.00	Manteca	99	495.00
Cameron	61	305.00	Marion	22	110.00
Carleton	22	110.00	Masontown	129	645.00
Cedar Falls	13	65.00	Massillon	43	215.00
Center Chapel	56	280.00	Mathias	82	410.00
Cerro Gordo	98	490.00	Matteson	23	115.00
Chandon	66	330.00	Maurertown	164	820.00
Cheyenne	35	175.00	Mexico	129	645.00
College Corner	143	715.00	Milford	96	480.00
Corinth	119	595.00	Milledgeville	303	1,515.00
Country Line	84	420.00	Mishawaka	45	225.00
Columbus	50	250.00	Morrill	23	115.00
Cumberland	26	130.00	Mt. Olive	282	1,410.00
Denver	66	330.00	Mt. Olivet	37	185.00
Derby	64	320.00	Mt. Pleasant	31	155.00
Dutchtown	108	540.00	Mulvane	54	270.00
Elkhart	325	1,625.00	Muncie	109	545.00
Fairless Hills	118	590.00	Nappanee	315	1,575.00
Falls City	116	580.00	Newark	75	375.00
Firestone Park	116	580.00	New Lebanon	526	2,630.00
Flora	164	820.00	New Paris	100	500.00
Fort Scott	50	250.00	North Georgetown	104	520.00
Fremont	92	460.00	North Liberty	57	285.00
Garber	61	305.00	North Manchester	481	2,405.00
Gatewood	25	125.00	Oak Hill	136	680.00
Glenford	13	65.00	Oakville	127	635.00
Goshen	484	2,420.00	Papago Park	111	555.00
Gratis	145	725.00	Park Street	503	2,515.00
Gretna	162	810.00	Peru	74	370.00
Haddix	19	95.00	Pittsburgh	69	345.00
Hagerstown	278	1,390.00	Pleasant Hill	185	925.00
Highland	100	500.00	Pleasant View	169	845.00
Hillcrest	159	795.00	Raystown	33	165.00
Huntington	137	685.00	Roann	244	1,220.00
Jefferson	269	1,345.00	Roanoke	47	235.00
Johnstown II	126	630.00	Rowdy	29	145.00
Johnstown III	256	1,280.00	Sarasota	620	3,100.00
Kimsey Run	21	105.00	Sergeantsville	37	185.00
Kokomo	51	255.00	Smithville	313	1,565.00



South Bend	276	1,380.00	Vinco	382	1,910.00
St. James	316	1,580.00	Wabash	61	305.00
St. Luke	64	320.00	Walcrest	63	315.00
St. Petersburg	10	50.00	Warsaw	200	1,000.00
Stockton	61	305.00	Washington	236	1,180.00
Teegarden	96	480.00	Waterloo	261	1,305.00
Tiosa	75	375.00	Wayne Heights	114	570.00
Trinity	164	820.00	West Alexandria	165	825.00
Tucson	198	990.00	White Dale	8	40.00
Udell	48	240.00	Williamstown	49	245.00
Valley	74	370.00	Winding Waters	85	425.00

A new wind is blowing in the Seminary and the Church! God's Holy Spirit is calling and moving men and women into the Gospel ministry. Please be a partner by your church support. The preaching of the Gospel is still the greatest work in the world—Fair share gift. Please check your church giving.



# STEPHEN H. BASHOR

*A digest of a paper on the forefathers of The Brethren Church by students in a class on Brethren History and Doctrine conducted at the Ashland Theological Seminary by Rev. Richard Allison.*

H. R. Holsinger called Stephen H. Bashor "the most successful Tunker revivalist in the history of the denomination".<sup>1</sup> Writing of the man whom he had the good fortune to know intimately, A. T. Ronk extolled the great evangelist:

His preaching became a flame of conviction and he went like a meteor through the German Baptist Church from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Holsinger's history records that no less than ten thousand members were gained by the church in those seven years (1875-1882). Dr. J. Allen Miller told this writer more than fifty years ago that Holsinger was too modest in his estimate.<sup>2</sup>

Yet in spite of the fruitage of his ministry, Holsinger had this final evaluation of our nineteenth century "Billy Graham": "Then he became ambitious, thirsting for worldly glory. He first sought it in the lecture field, and was fairly successful. Next he entered the political arena, running for Congress in three separate parties, failing in each case."<sup>3</sup> Interestingly enough, elder Ronk ignored this aspect of Holsinger's personal reflections and transmits a far different impression.

Elder Bashor bore the pressures of the demands upon him until he became a nervous wreck. He related to this writer about 1910, his emotional reactions to preaching an evangelistic sermon. He declined an invitation to be a guest speaker with the explanation that he would be sleepless two or three nights as a result. By his own statement he 'emotionally burned out'.<sup>4</sup>

**by Randy Best**

Who was this pioneer evangelist to whom several denominations can look with thanksgiving and pride?

Born in Washington County, Tennessee, August 15, 1852, Stephen Bashor was baptized and subsequently called to the eldership in his home church in Missouri in the summer of 1875. It was while visiting relatives near Mexico, Indiana, that his gift for evangelism was first evidenced. The Holy Spirit blessed the first eighteen sermons of the young evangelist, and twenty-five new members were added to the congregation of Mexico. Over the next seven years Elder Bashor preached from three to thirty sermons in almost every church in the denomination. Alert to criticism by the "conservative elements" of the Tunkers of his unique manner of ministry, he wrote,

It is a fact that cold, logical, learned and intellectual discourses do not as a rule arouse enthusiasm and win men to practical acceptance of the truth preached or the cause accepted. It is one thing to reach and control the judgment, and quite another to enlist the life in service to that which the judgment accepts. The work of the pastor is to instruct to allegiance . . . I saw open then, one distinctive and effective line of labor. That was as an exhorter. Appeal to the affections, the fears and the conscience of those yet out of Christ, in the families of the Brethren and their friends. It seemed to me that the church had been planting and cultivating in a prolific soil for over a century,



and had neglected to lay down the plow for the sickle. The harvest was ripe—dead ripe—and the reaper should gather in the ripened grain.<sup>5</sup>

The split of 1881-1883 did not weaken his intense concern for evangelism. Writing before the national convention of 1887, he proposed that the new Brethren Church organize its evangelistic efforts. He envisioned the need for full-time, salaried evangelists "to harvest the ripened grain". Bashor further proposed the creation of a general missionary organization and pushed for a denomination-wide offering on the Sunday before national convention to meet the need.

Although this marriage to Corda Weller (1878) must have been a source of personal happiness, it must have been discouraging to watch the rolling thunderheads as a church split loomed on the horizon. Indeed, one of the key issues which would sunder the denomination was the controversy over "protracted meetings", a direct threat to the special ministry with which he had been entrusted. In somewhat a condescending and disparaging manner, Elder Holsinger wrote of Bashor's role in the split. "To Stephen Bashor belongs a large share of the honor, or ignominy, of the great division in the Tunker fraternity, as he did as much in agitating the various subjects which created the disturbance as any other brother."<sup>6</sup> These are strange, incongruous words coming from one who was defended and supported by Elder Bashor while the whole denomination awaited the trial of Elder Holsinger in 1881.

It was during these critical years that the young evangelist served as an editor in several capacities. He occupied positions of importance on such denominational papers as the **Brethren at Work**, **Gospel Preacher**, and the **Progressive Christian**. The evangelist felt constrained to defend and promote the beliefs of the "progressive Brethren". Several debates, books, and pamphlets were the result. Perhaps his personal concern for "truth" is well illustrated by the closing words of the statement of the "Progressive Mind" by Elders Bashor and Holsinger (1881).

Unkind reflections, severe personalities, and attacks upon the character of others should be studiously avoided and strenuously prohibited. But freedom of speech and dignified discussion should be allowed as one of the liberties of a free people and the spirit of Christ. Truth will lose nothing by investigation and error will gain nothing.<sup>7</sup>

Other facets of Elder Bashor's personality and concerns merit attention. His deep concern for the alienated young of the denomination and his success in reaching them led to a reaction by the more "conservative" members and led in part to the split. He was also interested in questions of church polity and doctrine, an interest which

is reflected in his writings. We find him to be involved in contemporary discussions on the need for ministerial training throughout the denomination. His writings also reflect an abiding interest in the history of the Brethren. Of special interest in the panorama of our history is his contention that Alexander Mack was baptized by a Greek missionary rather than by one of the other "original eight".

Of particular interest to this writer has been the "mystic" or "charismatic" thread which has been woven throughout the tapestry of Brethrenism. Church historian and archivist A. T. Ronk elaborated the dynamic charisma of our people.

The Brethren Church was born out of a mystic cloud. Men were impelled, by forces they little understood, and took their solid stand almost in bewilderment. That is why men like Holsinger, Beer, Bashor, Brown, and many others were willing to be martyrs for a cause they could not explain. They knew they must seek to reconstruct the historic Brethren Church on congregational principles. Yet, when asked to define congregational polity in 1883, they could not do so, but fell back on the declaration that the Bible was the basis of creed and practice. Why? It was because they wished to wait for the mystic moving of the Holy Spirit in each and every rising circumstance. That is why they shunned dogmatic statements and rigid central control. These mystic-minded fathers were the moderates of every General Conference. They were the type of men who steered the church through many dangerous waters in all of her history. The only time the Brethren ever suffered disaster was when the mystic-minded moderates were too few or were inarticulate.<sup>8</sup>

Elder Stephen Bashor was a pioneer evangelist, author, editor, debator, innovative churchman, amateur historian, mystic, and visionary church leader. His legacy is rich and his name along with our other pioneer evangelists "should be written large in the annals of the church".<sup>9</sup>

1 Henry R. Holsinger, *History of the Tunkers and the Brethren Church*, (Oakland: Pacific Press Publishing Co., 1901) p. 642.

2 Albert T. Ronk, *History of the Brethren Church*, (Ashland: Brethren Publishing Company, 1968) p. 103.

3 Holsinger, *History of the Tunkers and the Brethren Church*, pp. 641-643.

4 Ronk, *History of the Brethren Church*, p. 173.

5 *Ibid.*, pp. 103-104.

6 Holsinger, *History of the Tunkers and the Brethren Church*, p. 642.

7 Ronk, *History of the Brethren Church*, p. 141.

8 *Ibid.*, pp. 244-245.

9 *Ibid.*, p. 440.



# CHURCH GROWTH CHRONICLE



## NAPPANEE CHURCH GROWTH SEMINAR

On Friday, November 7 people began rolling into Nappanee for the launching of the Win Arn Seminar. Reservations were finalized, name tags issued, and we were off—and growing!

Saturday, November 8 we came back for more. Total enrollment reached 152. Observers at the Seminar were Rev. Duane Dickson, Pastor of College Corner; Rev. Smith Rose, Executive Secretary of Central Council; Rev. Marlin McCann, pastor of Mt. Olive; Rev. Arden Gilmer, Director of Evangelism/Church Growth for the Brethren Church.

There were 5 participating churches involved. A participating church was one shooting for 20 or more from the local church. Elkhart captured the prize for bringing the most people with 47. The prize was given to Rev. Dale RuLon, pastor

of the Elkhart Church—one copy of Blue Jeans Theology of James by Al Shifflett. (Dale would do just about anything to get a free copy of Blue Jeans!) Other participating churches were Nappanee, Goshen, South Bend, and Winding Waters. There were others drifting in and out during the course of the seminar . . . they would get a growth shot and go to GROW!

Win Arn conducted a typical Growth Seminar which was well received. And all present made a covenant that if Conversion/Outreach Growth principles fail we will go the biological route! Again, Rev. Dale RuLon said he'd be the first. Rev. Arden Gilmer dismissed the group on Saturday afternoon with prayer . . . and we decided to go and GROW!

Al Shifflett, host pastor





## WORDS FROM BYC MODERATOR

I feel that one of my responsibilities serving as moderator of the BYC is to create a bond of communication between the Brethren. I feel that it also extends to the Adult Conference as well as the youth. It is my hope that this bond will cause a unity in the Brotherhood and we can all grow together.

I applaud the decision of our adult convention to celebrate the bicentennial—I think this year will be a great one for our entire denomination. With most of the preparation being done in local congregations for particular projects it seems to me a great opportunity for youth and adults to work together and get to know each other well. I hope you all will make a concerted effort to involve your church and district in the denominational effort and your youth in the local project—the gains in unity for the Brethren could be tremendous.

Another area that has long been of concern to me is that of advisors for our youth groups. If we don't have sponsors in the local churches we are stuck—that is one limitation that is almost impossible to work around. Mature dedicated youth are a great asset and their training must come from adult supervision and interest. Would all you churches who don't have youth groups make a strong effort to get one going—Please! They need a Christian Youth Group as a place to mature in Christian Growth as well as socially. There is no question as to whether your church should have an active youth group. The answer is undeniably “yes”.

I would like to offer two suggestions for new sponsors. First realize ahead of time that even one youth and a sponsor is worth the effort of having some kind of meeting and discussion. We should come together to worship and praise God no matter what our numerical size. And secondly, determine what the purpose of your group is when starting out so you have a sense of direction and a basis for evaluating what you do.

If you have suggestions for me or for whatever reason you would wish to write my address is:

Wayne Grumbling

205 B Fairlane Apts., Taylor University  
Upland, IN 46989 Phone: 317-998-7131

God Bless You All and Your Efforts This Year,

Wayne Grumbling  
BYC Moderator



*Wayne Grumbling, from Waterloo, Iowa is serving as the National BYC Moderator for the current year. 20 years old, he is a junior at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana with a major in Speech and Drama. With service as a past officer, 3 yr. Crusader veteran, and BYC council member, Wayne comes to this national office as an experienced leader. The son of Rev. and Mrs. Glenn Grumbling, we welcome him to this position and wish him the best of luck.*



# FAMILY LIFE TODAY



A new emphasis of meeting needs is arising in the Brethren Church. We have realized that a person's needs are important and require our attention. The church is reaching out and dealing with the needs of our members as well as others. In addition, our needs must also be met by our family. There is no doubt that a strong Christian family is the vital part of keeping our faith and self-preservation strong. Gospel Light Publications has produced a monthly magazine called "Family Life Today". This helpful publication can serve in many areas of your family life and truly aid in keeping your activities Christ-centered.

A typical issue of "Family Life Today" includes stories of husband/wife communication, parent/child communication, self-discovery for all members of the family, and many ideas for creative arts for the month in which all members of the family can participate. The staff of the magazine are experienced parents and are able to shed light on areas which the family often encounters and welcomes information. If you are concerned about helping your family life to grow in Christ, these magazines will help you in your efforts. They are available through your church or Christian bookstore. Start out the year right and begin your family life today!

## *What Are Your Plans for Summer 1976?*

Maybe it is too early for you to have definite plans, but it is never too early to begin thinking and praying about what wonderful things God has in store for you. Plans for Summer 1976 are already under way in some exciting new areas. If you are interested in receiving application forms and policies for either the Crusader program or internship, clip out the following blank and send immediately. We will release the forms and policies after December 1, 1975 with a return deadline of January 31, 1976.

ACT NOW! THINK MUCH! PRAY A LOT!

CLIP AND RETURN TO: Board of Christian Education  
524 College Ave.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Please send me: \_\_\_\_\_ all application forms and a statement of the Summer Crusader Policies.  
\_\_\_\_\_ all application forms and a statement of the Summer Internship Policies.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

I hold membership in the Brethren Church of \_\_\_\_\_

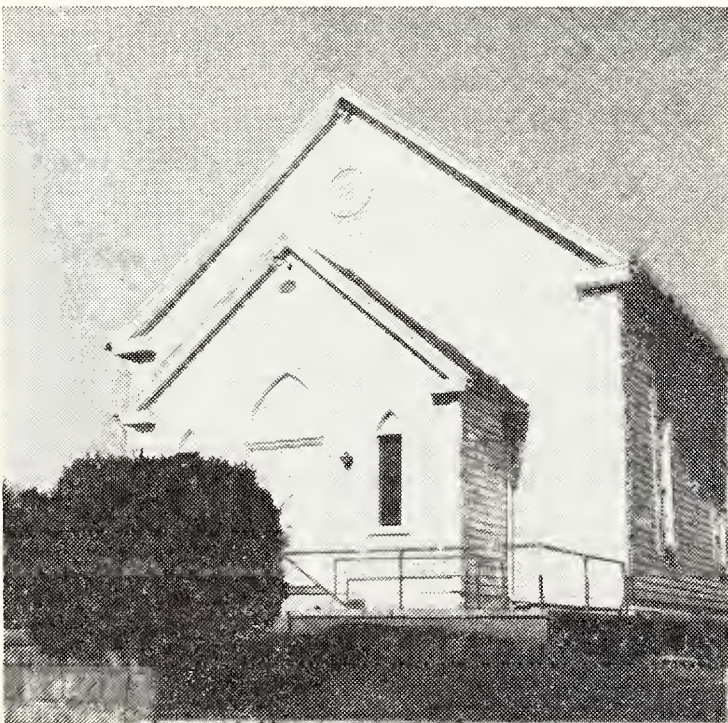


# History of the Saint James Brethren Church

## St. James, Maryland

"Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord!" Out of very small things our God can cause great things to grow. The history of the First Brethren Church of St. James, Maryland helps to prove that ours is the only compassionate God.

Rev. Freeman Ankrum has told us that two men from Washington County, Maryland attended the Ashland, Ohio convention in 1882. These two men were Andrew Cost of the Beaver Creek congregation, and Edward S. Miller of the Manor Church of the Brethren congregation. These were days when there was considerable unrest in the church, and led to the division of 1882. Early in 1886 Bro. John Duke McFaden came into the community as pastor. Bro. J. D. McFaden had a flock in the community that numbered one, viz. Mrs. Alice Moats of Tilghmanton, Maryland. Differences of opinion had arisen in the ranks of the German Baptists—the Brethren—resulting in those who withdrew organizing a Sunday School at the Fountain Rock one room school. Mr. & Mrs. Tilgham J. Fahrney of Downsville, Maryland were among the first who withdrew from the Manor Church of the Brethren and they supported the new Sunday School at Fountain Rock.



*Old frame church dedicated in 1886, torn down for parking area*

There was consistent growth and the outlook was encouraging, so efforts were made to build a church. "At this time the whole of Washington County was **one** Mission Field. Yes, Washington County, with her many fine churches; rich and large in membership was a mission field for the **Bible alone doctrine**. Nothing but pluck, faith, and the grace of God could have brought the establishment of a new church at St. James, Maryland." When all realized a church was badly needed, a movement began to establish a church. The land was donated by Mr. Bill James and the church was built on the land (our new church stands on the same land but not the same location). This First Brethren Church at St. James, Maryland dedicated December 25, 1886. A congregation was formed at this time. Most of the charter members were the Brethren who had left the Dunkard Church. The Brethren rejoiced and God was praised. After the dedication of the church, a protracted meeting was held. Bro. E. B. Shaver helped to conduct this Revival meeting—and fourteen souls were added to the church roll. Rev. J. D. McFaden left to assume charge of the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania church and Rev. I. D. Bowman from Harrisonburg, Virginia succeeded him on April 1, 1887.

On March 22, 1888 a complete organization of the congregation took place with the selection and ordination of T. J. Fahrney, J. F. Mullen, Dr. V. M. Reichard, Mrs. Alice Moats, Rev. Joshua Long and Mrs. Missouri Show as deacons. It was during Rev. Bowman's pastorate that Williamson, Pennsylvania was named a mission field. There were no Brethren at Williamson, but Bro. Adam Phiel wrote to the St. James pastor in regard to the doctrine of the Brethren.

Rev. Bowman went to Williamson and found the German Baptists and the United Brethren worshipping together, with quite a number of worldly converts. Bro. Bowman organized a church with about fifty members. Bro. Phiel was chosen ELDER, Bro. Abram Shist minister and Brethren Alfea Shields and Jacob Foutz deacons.

For a time, on account of internal troubles, the little church did not grow. Said one brethren pastor, Rev. Joshua Long of Downsville, Maryland at this time, "I know of no place where the Brethren cause will prosper more than at Williamson, Pennsylvania." (He went there frequently to preach) Before we leave Dr. I. D. Bowman's pastorate, tribute should be paid to our own Dr. V. M. Reichard. He was one of the greatest and most influential of "all" lay members.

He too, joined the church at this time and not only was he adept to ministering to the physical



body, he was equally as capable in his church work, often filling the pulpit at St. James and a mission point at Woburn, Washington, County, Maryland. Dr. Reichard was indeed a "cornerstone in our church's foundation". (Incidentally, I might add that he was one of the first men to replace his "Horse and Buggy" with an automobile in our section.)

Under Rev. Bowman's preaching, Mrs. Joshua Long united with the Brethren Church and was Baptized by Rev. I. D. Bowman. He served for two years and then moved away in 1889. Rev. Joshua Long filled the pulpit until he was succeeded in April 1889, (at this time the charge consisted of St. James, Funkstown and Mapleville) by Elder E. B. Shaver of Maurertown, Virginia. He served one year until April 1, 1890, when Elder John G. Snyder was called to the St. James work. He served six months and left, never to return to his pastorate.

It was in January 1892 that Bro. E. H. Smith of Vinco, Pennsylvania held a protracted meeting and on April 1, 1892 became pastor of the St. James church. Elder Smith claimed he organized the first Brethren Sunday School in the State of Maryland during his pastorate at St. James.

Rev. J. C. Mackey of Conemaugh, Pennsylvania was the next pastor to serve at St. James beginning on April 1, 1894. It was during this period of his pastorate that a church was organized and built in Hagerstown, Maryland. Many of the St. James Brethren who had moved to Hagerstown but had been commuting to St. James to worship found it more convenient to attend the Hagerstown church and became some of its charter members. On April 1, 1895 the Brethren Church of Hagerstown became a separate and distinct organization. The missionary spirit was predominate and there were several preaching points under the auspices of the St. James congregation such as Mapleville, Tilghmanton, Downsville, and at the Woburn School House near Dam #4.

The next pastor to assume the pastorate was Rev. Joshua Long whose tenure began in 1895 and lasted six years. A jubilee service was held on December 25, 1896 to commemorate the paying off the debt of the church. At communion time ten years previous, Mrs. Alice Moats (an aunt of Dr. Rev. W. D. Furry, Professor of Philosophy and Church History for quite some time) was a lone member, but now was participating in Holy Communion with 117 other members. Active membership at this time was 141. Rev. Long was called upon quite often to fill the pulpit after his term as pastor in the interim periods between other pastors for this congregation.

At the turn of the century, 1902, Rev. J. I. Hall assumed the position of pastor and served approximately 13 years with a brief period of time off around 1905 at which time the pulpit was occupied by L. G. Smith, the son of Rev. E. H. Smith. During this 13 year period Rev. Hall baptized 275 people.

As Rev. J. I. Hall terminated his pastorate, Rev. H. W. Nowag, a grandson of Elder Henry Holsinger began his term as shepherd of the St. James flock until 1920 except for one year, 1918 during which Rev. Willis Ronk filled the pulpit. Rev. M. B. Spacht became pastor in 1921-22



*New building, constructed in two phases  
and dedicated in two services,  
Winter of 1968 and Fall 1975*

and in spite of being handicapped by poor eyesight, was considered to be as spiritually strong as any man.

The next pastor called to serve the congregation was the curly-headed preacher with the twin daughters, Rev. Lester V. King. (Rev. King after serving many pastorates faithfully is now retired and residing in Indiana. Ed. note) He served for four years baptizing 60 persons into the church membership. He was an active and industrious pastor, very friendly and a good mixer among the people. The membership was "revived" under his leadership.

Rev. Thoburn Lyon took his place in the continuity of pastoral leadership following the tenure of Rev. King and served from 1926 to 1927. He in turn was followed by Rev. W. S. Baker who began his term as pastor in 1928. Some of his most outstanding accomplishments while in this pastorate was among the young people. In co-operation with Miss Margaret Lowery's leadership among the youth this segment of the church work forged ahead. Rev. Baker was a man who in essence "practiced what he preached" in his personal life. He had to terminate his pastorate which was the longest of any pastor at St. James in 1941 due to ill health. Even then he occasionally filled the pulpit in an unusual manner in that he had to be wheeled into church in a wheel chair and preached from it.

Rev. D. C. White came to take up the work in 1941 and worked on the field until 1946. He was also preaching at Waynesboro, Pennsylvania at the time. He was followed by Rev. Henry Bates, presently the pastor at Wayne Heights, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania until 1948. (Rev. D. C. White is a member of the Berlin, Pennsylvania Brethren Church presently. Ed. note) Rev. Donald Warrenfeltz served as interim pastor until Rev. Freeman Ankrum assumed the pastorate in November of 1948. Rev. Warrenfeltz was a student at Gettysburg College and Seminary during this time.

A fund to start construction of a basement was taken on as a project by the Boys' Brotherhood and in 1952 actual construction was begun. Plans



drawn by James E. Norris came to fruition in a rededication of the renovated edifice including the new basement May 22, 1955. 97 persons were added to the membership roll during Rev. Ankrum's pastorate.

It was during the time that Bro. Frank Rottier pastored this group that a purchase of a new parsonage and 10 acres of land was made from the Sperow family. Rev. James Rowsey was next in line to serve as pastor and known as a "Sunday School" man, Bro. Jim saw the potential and the needs. Under his vigorous leadership the Sunday School and Church growth pointed out the need for larger facilities.

After years of planning and discussing various possibilities for expansion in St. James, a decision was made by the congregation December 31, 1965 to build a new brick, electrically heated church and educational building. Actual construction was delayed and the educational unit was started in August of 1966. This unit was completed in December and dedicated in September 1967.

During the pastorate of James Naff, the sanctuary unit was redesigned with addition of a basement area and vestibule. Builder Russell Keener worked especially hard to meet the deadline in completing construction which was to be the time District Conference was to be held at St. James. (Your Editor remembers well how the pastor and various members of the congregation labored to get the usual cleaning up after any construction project just in the nick of time for the Southeast District Conference to begin on schedule.)

Dedication was postponed until all the other work scheduled was completed.

Thus closes a partial resume of the history of the St. James Brethren Church with these closing lines as written in the "CELEBRATION!" booklet of September 7, 1975:

"This is not an end, but a start. There is so much yet to do. There are Christians to disciple and send forth, there are souls in darkness to win. There are the hungry to feed, the naked to clothe, the orphan and the aged to care for, the prisons to visit. There is a world to reach for Christ. No, we're not done. We've only begun. By God's grace WE WILL GO ON!" (To this we can only add a hearty, AMEN! Ed. note)

*The historical sketch of the St. James Brethren Church was compiled from the Rally-day, Homecoming, Dedication "CELEBRATION!" services program which was held September 7, 1975 at the Saint James Brethren Church, St. James, Maryland.*

*The research and historical data for the History of the Saint James Brethren Church portion of the program booklet was provided and written by Miss Thelma Baker. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. James Naff for his kind consideration in providing the material for this "Know Your Brethren Churches" feature of THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST. We would also like to add our congratulations to the many others received at this "CELEBRATION"! event. (Editor's note)*



*Officers, St. James Brethren l. to r.*

*Front row: Ralph Hutzell, Annabelle Griffith, Lawrence Hoffman, Mick Jamison, Buck Kelbaugh, Betty Jamison, Lois Hutzell*

*Middle row: Myron Bloom, Dick Poffenberger, Davy Jamison, Urla Jamison, Evelyn Eichelberger, Phyllis Barr, Myra Poffenberger, Harriet Bowers*

*Back row: Lin Easterday, James Naff, Mase Griffith, Tony Diebert, Dot Diebert, Paul Bomberger, Tom Bowers, Marvin Jamison, Sandy Culler*



# Church Finance

by Manfred Holck Jr.

## IS TITHING NECESSARY?



Is tithing necessary? Well, that all depends.

When I am told that I **must** tithe, then my gift is no longer a freewill offering springing from my love for God. It is a tax. And I don't believe my giving is supposed to be a tax. When I am told that the only acceptable measure of my giving is its proximity to a tithe, I object. Jesus never said, "Thou shalt tithe."

Read through your New Testament. Jesus really had nothing to say about the size of one's gift. Spirit, attitude, motivation—that's what counted with the Lord.

Take one look at your congregational budget and you may be quickly convinced that tithing is necessary if you're going to balance the books. Obviously, the financial impact upon your congregation would be extraordinary—life saving—if everyone were required to tithe and did so.

Many of the faithful do tithe, fortunately, but not everyone has caught the vision of what giving like that can do for them. To require anyone to tithe would not be gospel, but law, and would

not be appropriate to my interpretation of God's love for me. The church has a responsibility to teach and explain and inspire and motivate, but it cannot and does not compel.

Tithing is not some bargain we strike up with God. You cannot promise to give God 10% in return for his assurances that you are guaranteed the 90% for your own use. God has not signed a promissory note offering a specific return for your tithe. Furthermore, tithing won't generate more customers for you or double your sales either. It may help your attitude and it is certainly better than giving less, but your business could still go bankrupt.

Furthermore, I am convinced that those congregations which use tithing as a gimmick to load up the offering plates, have also missed the point. You can't sustain a program of tithing just because the church's bank account is overdrawn.

Tithing is a personal decision, a voluntary act, a reaction to one's love for the Savior. Its result may or may not be an overflowing church coffer. That's not the point. Rather it is joy for the giver that makes the difference and that is all. No law, no demand, no requirement, simply desire that comes from love, joy, from knowing God.

To tithe or not to tithe is a good question. But a more important question is whether to give or not to give in the first place. For it is from that point that one considers how much to give. Tithing may be the answer. It may not be. It is for my family and it is for others, too.

No matter how many or how few dollars we can or do give, like the widow's mite, if the motive is right, God will take that gift and bless us for it. It may or may not be 10% of our income. God won't compute a percentage.

We give, not because God expects us to or requires us to do so or the church budget desperately needs our money. We give because God loves us and we are extremely grateful to him for that love.

*\*Copyright 1975 by Manfred Holck, Jr. For additional information on other topics related to church or clergy finance, write to the author in care of this newspaper or magazine. Mr. Holck is editor of CHURCH AND CLERGY FINANCE, the bi-weekly financial newsletter for clergy, and publisher of CHURCH MANAGEMENT: THE CLERGY JOURNAL.*

## Signal Lights Program for February

**BIBLE THEME: Serving God**

**PROJECT: Medical Outreach in India**

by **ALBERTA HOLSINGER**

### BIBLE STORY: A Boy Serves By Sharing

Call to Worship:

Dear God:

In my work and play,  
I will try to do,  
What I can each day  
To serve and follow You.

"Mom", called the boy as he ran to the house, "Mom, Jesus is going down the road. Lots of people are following Him. They want to see Him make sick people well. Let's go, too. Please, may we?"

"I wish we could, Son," answered Mom. "But I must finish baking this bread before Dad gets home for lunch."

"Oh," said the boy and Mom knew he was disappointed.

"I tell you what," continued Mom. "Why don't you go? See the crowd is stopping on the hillside over there. You can listen to Jesus teach. You can watch Him heal. Then you can tell Dad and me all about it."

The boy's eyes sparkled. A smile crept across his face. "May I? May I really go?" he asked.

"Yes," answered Mom as she put five of the small freshly baked loaves of bread into a basket. "You will get hungry before you get back," she said as she put two dried fish into the basket also. "Now, run along. Listen and watch carefully. We will want to know all about it."

The boy ran quickly down the path, across the field to the hillside where Jesus was talking to the crowd. He slipped between people and around groups until he was standing very close to Jesus.

The boy listened as Jesus talked. He watched as Jesus put His hand on sick people and they were well. "He can do anything. Jesus can do anything!" thought the boy.

Then he heard Jesus say to the disciples, "The people are hungry. Let's give them food before they start home."

Philip said, "But, Jesus, there are thousands of people here! Where can we get enough food for all of them?"

The boy was standing near Andrew. He tugged on Andrew's sleeve. Andrew leaned down to hear the boy.

"I have a lunch," said the child. "Jesus may use it to feed the people. See, here are five barley loaves and two fishes."

Andrew smiled at the boy. Then he went to Jesus. "That boy says You may have his lunch to feed the people. He has just five loaves and two small fish. That small amount of food won't do any good."

"Bring the boy to me," said Jesus," and have the people sit on the grass."

When the child handed the lunch to Him, Jesus smiled and said, "Thank you." Then He prayed, "Thank You, God. Thank You for this food."

Jesus began to take food from the basket and give it to the disciples to pass to the people.

The boy could hardly believe his eyes. There was enough food for all those thousands of people and twelve basketsful left when the people were through eating. All of that from his small lunch basket! He had been willing for Jesus to use what he had, and his small lunch became a miracle in the hands of Jesus.

His eyes sparkled as he ran down the hillside, across the field and up the path to home.

"Mom! Dad!" he shouted. "Jesus can do anything! He really can do anything!"

—Based on John 6:1-14



## MISSION STORY: A Sick Boy

The telephone rang. "Hello," said Mom.

"This is Mrs. Brown, Jimmy's teacher," said the voice on the other end of the line. "Jimmy is sick. His head hurts. His stomach hurts and he feels hot."

"I'll be right over to get him," said Mom. "Thanks for calling."

She hung up the phone. Then she went to the closet and put on her coat and scarf. On the way out Mom stopped in the backhall and put on her boots.

Then she went to the garage, got in the car and drove to school.

Jimmy was waiting just inside the front door of the school. When he saw Mom drive up, he ran quickly to the car.

Mom leaned over and opened the door for him. Jimmy got in, slammed the door shut and leaned back against the car seat.

"I'm sick," he said.

"I know," said Mom.

And she drove home.

In a short time Jimmy was dressed in his pajamas, tucked in his bed, with a thermometer in his mouth.

When Mother took it out she said, "You do have a fever. I'll give you an aspirin. If you don't feel better soon, I'll call the doctor."

"I'm glad you always know what to do," said Jimmy.

Mom smiled. "So am I," she said, "but if we lived in India it would be much different."

"Wouldn't you be as smart?" asked Jimmy.

"Oh, yes," answered Mom, "I would be as smart. I would know you are sick. But we wouldn't have a thermometer to know what your temperature was. I wouldn't have any aspirin to give you and worst of all there would be no doctor to call."

"What would we do?" Jimmy wanted to know.

"Nothing," replied Mom. "Oh, if you were still sick when the Christian doctor visited our village I might take you to see him. He would give you medicine and tell us about Jesus."

"I'm glad we know Jesus already," said Jimmy sleepily. "Can we help the children of India?"

"Yes," said Mom. "We'll send some money for our missionaries to buy some medicine. Now go to sleep and soon you'll feel better."

Jimmy closed his eyes and Mom tiptoed from the room.





## CHANGES AND MORE CHANGES

In the last issue of the **Brethren Evangelist** dated December 13, 1975 on page 6, I commented on some of the changes taking place in the Brethren Publishing Company and in particular in the Brethren Bookstore with the coming of Dan DeVeney to our staff. Changes continue to come to our operations and many of you are seeing them regularly as you received communications from us relating to special areas where we might be serving you in particular.

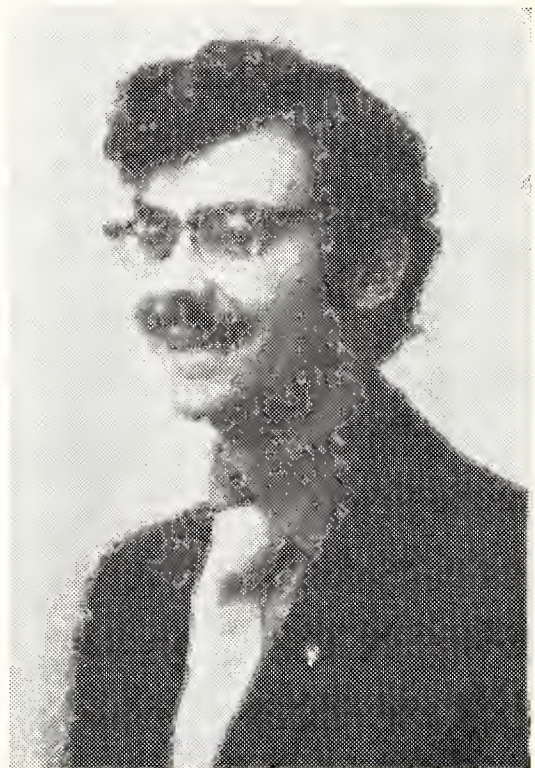


*George Schuster*

During the Fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the Brethren Publishing Company another change was announced. That was the resignation of our Editor of Publications Mr. George Schuster. The Board received the resignation with regret and expressed their appreciation for the work George has done over the years for the Company. The resignation will become effective in early February after which the Schusters plan to return to the Canton area to reside. Although George talks of retirement I'm sure his days will be as full if not busier with the plans of things he has been wanting to do for years.

Since the duties of Editor are changing so rapidly with the change over to a monthly magazine, the addition of special equipment to help with the work and other changes in the planning stage, the Board decided not to hire a replacement at this time but rather divide the responsibility until the exact scope of the work can be determined. The duties of Managing Editor, that

is, the day by day work of the magazine and quarterly will be taken care of by Mr. Ronald W. Waters who had already been hired by the Publishing Company to work in Creative Arts. Ron has just finished graduate work in communications at Wheaton College and began working for the Company on December 15th. I will be adding the Editor-in-chief responsibilities to my other duties and thus sharing the work of Brethren Publications with Ron.



*Ronald W. Waters*

We continue to request your prayers for the various aspects of the Brethren Publishing Company as we plan growth coupled with steps to strengthen the base for our operation that we might serve the Church in the most efficient way.

Executive Director  
John D. Rowsey



# WORLD RELIEF REPORT

by Phil Lersch, Chairman  
Brethren World Relief Board

## TOUR TO ASIA

Yes, I have been invited by the World Relief Commission (of the National Association of Evangelicals) to participate in a second fact-finding tour of World Relief projects in Asia. The first was in 1973 when our son, John, and I visited Japan, Korea, Taiwan, South Vietnam, Hong Kong and Thailand.

This time I will be traveling to India, Bangladesh and Thailand—and there is a slight possibility that I may be able to visit both of our Brethren Mission Projects in India (led by the Kumars). All of these visits (especially to Bangladesh) are contingent upon the political conditions in each country at the time we are there. The dates are January 19 to February 9, 1976 (three weeks).

Members of our Brethren World Relief Board have approved my going to represent the Brethren Church, and authorized a share in the expenses involved. However, most of the expenses will be borne by the World Relief Commission itself.

**The Purpose** (as stated by WRC) is that I might be personally acquainted with the programs supported by us through the World Relief Commission and have first-hand experience of our stewardship. This will then assist me in communicating the World Relief story to you—as I think was true following the trip in 1973. I again plan to take 2 cameras and a tape recorder to assist in reporting the facts to you when I return.

### Personnel

Eight of us will be travelling together:

**Rev. Ed Gustafson**—California WRC Representative. Served more than 20 years with the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church as a missionary in Laos. John and I met Ed at a dinner in Bangkok, Thailand, where he spoke to our 1973 group about mission work and WRC projects in Laos.

**Rev. John Kyle**—Coordinator of the Presbyterian Church of America's Mission to the World Division. Former missionary with the Wycliffe Bible translators.

**Rev. Clarence Sands**—Pastor of the Beautiful Conservative Baptist Church at San Jose, Calif.

**Rev. Kennedy Smartt**—Pastor of a Presbyterian Church and member of the Mission to the World Committee.

**Rev. Paul Smith**—Pastor at Peoples' Church in Toronto, Canada. A noted conference speaker and missionary statesman. Member of the Canada WRC Board.

**Rev. Peter Unruh**—Pastor of the Wooddale Baptist Church in Minneapolis, member of the WRC Board, and President of the Baptist General Conference.

**Rev. Richard Pendell** — WRC Tour Leader. Former C & MA missionary to Vietnam and Director of WRC Vietnam for 4 years. Returned to the United States in 1970 and working in Public Relations with WRC as Executive Assistant to Dr. Everett Graffam.

### Itinerary

#### United States:

January 19—Leave St. Petersburg for New York and London.

#### England:

January 20—Brief stop in London.  
—Depart for Calcutta, India.

#### India:

January 21-23—Calcutta, India.

#### Bangladesh:

January 23—Arrive in Dacca; then fly to Jessore.

January 24, 25—Travel by land to Khulna to visit the Dacope Project, Agriculture Co-ops, Rural Evangelism, Fisheries.

January 26, 27—Fly from Jessore to Chittagong to visit a Christian Hospital, the Under-Five Children's Clinic, and Stockley Agriculture Center.

January 28, 29—Fly from Chittagong to Dacca to visit various mission projects and city refugee camps; time for shopping and sightseeing.

#### Thailand:

January 30, 31—Fly from Dacca to Bangkok to visit the Floating Market and tour the Temples.

February 1, 2—Fly from Bangkok to Udorn to visit a Bible School, Farm Project, Ricemill, and Villages.

February 3—Return from Udorn to Bangkok for last-chance shopping and Temple tours.

#### India:

February 4—Fly from Bangkok to Calcutta.

February 5—Fly from Calcutta to Visakhapatnam to visit the Vijay Kumars.

February 6—Travel by car to Rajahmundry to visit the Prasantha Kumars.

February 7—Return to Visakhapatnam.

February 8—Fly to Calcutta.

#### United States:

February 9—Leave Calcutta for New York and St. Petersburg.

**I'm sharing these plans in some detail so that you Brethren might be aware of this World Relief activity and anticipate the reports upon my return. But also so that you might offer prayers on our behalf enroute . . . between January 19 and February 9, 1976.**



*Sue Ellen Barnes is an active member of the Tucson, Arizona, Brethren Church. She is a senior in high school, graduating in January. Sue serves as president of the Southwest District B.Y.C. and attended the National B.Y.C. Council meeting in Ashland this fall.*

*And in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.*

*(Colossians 2:10 NASB)*

Greeting from the Lord Jesus Christ and those of us out West in Tucson. Will you join with me in praising God for making each one of us entirely and totally complete. Read Psalms 63 as a prayer to Him before you go on reading this article.

Hasn't this year been exciting, and here we are about to start a new one. Since I'll be graduating from High School this January, the beginning of the year will be most welcome and a little scary. As I have been wondering what I will be doing when I get out of High School I have found that I've been walking around with potential for Christ that I haven't put into use. Right now you and I are fully equipped to accomplish the purpose God has set us on earth for. We're like a car that has been specially assembled to race at top speed with the most advanced technological equipment for the safety of the driver. If the driver doesn't know the correct use of the car, what good is it for him to have these special advantages in equipment? When a driver prepares for a race you can be sure he has learned through studies and experiments the most beneficial way to drive his car so as to get it at its maximum peak of performance.

We are that car, and God almighty is the one that provides us with all the parts. We are also the driver of that car learning from Him how to operate it. To do this He has equipped us with all the necessities to learn. He has provided His Word, His own power, that we received when we first became His children, and His very own character, Galatians 5:22, 23. We have the potential to be the image of Christ. Why then are so many of us walking around with equipment that has not been efficiently taken care of or used? I believe it's because so many of us don't realize that we possess some very special and unique gifts. These gifts are special abilities that God gives us to accomplish His work and grow in closer communion with Him and other Christians. They are spiritual gifts that we should use in serving one another.

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

I Peter 4:10

Spiritual gifts are only given to believers and are different than talents, for the world has talents,

but not God's gifts. Romans 8:9, 14, 16, 17 and I Cor. 12:7

I knew God had given me a gift, but I didn't go on what you might say was a "SPIRITUAL EASTER EGG HUNT". If a child on Easter knows there are eggs to be found, but never searches for them, unless he stumbles on a few, how is he going to know they're there? The same thing goes for our spiritual gifts, we may stumble over them, but shouldn't we take more initiative and look earnestly for them? So many of us face the problem of unknown potential. We are ignorant of the fact that we possess spiritual gifts, and some of us who do, do not know what to do with them. Here are only a small list of gifts you can explore. 1. The gift of serving of helps, 2. The gift of giving, 3. The gift of showing mercy, 4. The gift of craftsmanship, 5. The gift of love, 6. The gift of leadership. These gift and others can be used now helping latter to find the direction we should go. The earlier we recognize our gifts, the more time we have to mature and grow in them, learning to use them at their highest peak of performance.

Our sisterhoods need our gifts, and each of us has at least one. Start searching now, and let me know if you need any prayer, just write me, Sue Ellen Barnes at 5445 N. Bonita Pl. Tucson, Arizona 85704. Any additional information on how to find and develop your gift can be found in a number of books. I especially recommend, "Discovering Your Spiritual Gift" by Rick Yohn, or again, just write me and I'd be happy to help in any way I can.

"Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way."

I Corinthians 12:27-30

GOD BE WITH YOU,  
Sue Ellen Barnes

THE BRETHREN EVANGELIST



# The Brethren Layman

## The Laymen's Meeting

by J. Perry Deeter

### WHY WORRY?

#### *Matthew 6:25-34*

How many of us worry about various things as we travel along life's highway? I would dare say that most of us do worry about one thing or another from time to time. There are some people who do not seem to worry about anything at all, but I just imagine that there are times that they do worry, but it just doesn't show.

Not too many of us have to worry about where our next meal is coming from, or whether or not we are going to be able to clothe ourselves properly. There are many young couples who are just getting started, who do have financial problems, and many of them worry about these difficulties, I am sure. Then there is the problem of job security and preparing for that day when we hope to retire. There are all things that we need to be concerned about, but according to these verses of scripture in Matthew, Christians should not worry about such matters.

Of course, we do need to have the proper concern in all these areas, as well as many others. Then we must do all that we can to solve the problems of feeding and clothing our families and various other aspects of our lives that demand our attention. We cannot just sit back and say that God will provide these necessities. He has given us the talents and abilities to take care of ourselves, at least up to a certain point. After we have done all that we can to take care of ourselves, (with His ever-present help) we must not worry, but put our trust in the Lord, Who will provide.

Verse 26 says that we should consider the fowls of the air. They don't worry about what to eat, nor do they need to sow or reap or store up food, for our Heavenly Father feeds them. Are we not much better than they? Does this mean, then, that we do not need to sow or reap or store up food? I don't believe it is saying that to us, for God gave us the ability and intelligence to do these things to help ourselves, while He did not give the birds these same capabilities.

The Living Bible gives us this translation of verse 27: "Will all your worries add a single moment to your life"? In fact, too much worrying can no doubt shorten a person's life. Many people literally make themselves sick by worrying.

Some have nervous break-downs, or even become mentally unbalanced, because of their constant worry.

In verses 28-30, we read that God clothes the lilies and grass in the field, so He will surely clothe us. Then at the end of verse 30, I believe we have the key to this whole topic: "O ye of little faith". We worry about these various aspects of our life because we do not have enough faith. This is showing a distrust in God.

Verse 32 tells us that our Heavenly Father knows that we need all these things. I don't think that this means that we should not pray for the necessities of life. Remember, James 4:2 says "Ye have not, because ye ask not". Also, we need to remember to thank our Father in Heaven for the way that He provides for us.

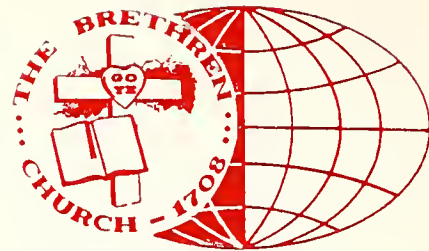
"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you". (v. 33) This is one of the great, fundamental, familiar phrases of Matthew's Gospel. To seek the kingdom of God means to strive to enter it ourselves, and then to bring others into it. God's righteousness is the perfect righteousness of Christ which He imputes to every believer. "All these things" refers primarily to the necessities of life listed in verses 25 and 31, and with which it is so easy to become completely preoccupied. We must put first things first if we are to break the "worry habit".

In the final verse, we are told that we should not worry about tomorrow, for as The Living Bible says, "God will take care of your tomorrow, too. Live one day at a time". Of course, we must still try to plan ahead in certain matters, but we need to remember that any plans we make for the future must be in God's will and subject to change as He directs.

Questions for thought and/or discussion:

1. Where does concern end and worry begin?
2. Why does freedom from worry not mean freedom from responsibility?
3. If a Christian friend of yours tells you of something that is really worrying him, and asks your advice, what would you say to try to help him?

# MISSIONARY NEWS



## OPERATION PING-PONG

In seeking to reach the youth of our community here in Colombia, and to gain their confidence and win them for the Lord, we were led to invest in a ping-pong table. This may seem strange to some and we really can't find any scriptural passage that presents this as an Apostolic method of evangelism. We rather doubt if the Apostle Paul had access to such. But, nevertheless, we are thrilled with the results. Whereas previously we had had contact with most of the children of our street through Margaret and Joel, our children, we had not been able to get acquainted with most of the youth. Now, however, I doubt if there is one in the whole suburb who has not spent hours in our garage playing ping-pong.

And, of course, only two or four can play at one time which gives us opportunity to talk with the others awaiting their turn. As a result many are those who have consulted with us about spiritual matters, received tracts, entered our living room to listen to sacred music with ear phones and/or have taken home loaned Bible story books, a New Testament, or some other interesting book for youth.

So "Operation Ping-pong" led to "Operation Counseling" and this led to "Operation Literature Evangelism", with many young men. To date, after nearly six months in this ministry, five teenagers (boys) have accepted Christ as Savior and four have confirmed their decision by the step of baptism.

We thus have found that the time invested—sometimes until midnight on some nights—has been justified. And the words of one youth inspire us to give more of our time, talents and self. He said: "Don Solomon ("Don" is a title of great respect), I want you to know how very grateful I am for your counseling. We just do not have anyone to give us spiritual orientation and guidance."



by **Kenneth L. Solomon**

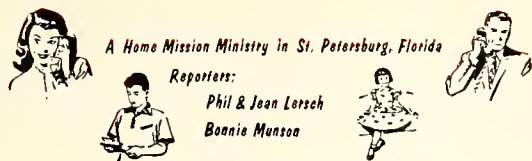
We praise the Lord for the results thus seen from "Operation Ping-Pong" and continue to expect greater things from God as we gain the confidence of even more youth and have opportunity to lead them into a saving knowledge of Christ Jesus as their personal Savior.

Please pray for those who have accepted Christ, and also pray for the many other young men we are contacting through this recreational means that is resulting in re-creation both moral and spiritual.





# BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



## GOD'S VARIETY

"O Lord, what a variety you have made! And in wisdom you have made them all! The earth is full of your riches."

Florida this time of year is glorious! The air is cool, the sun is warm, and the plants and trees are flowering. Colors are sharp, clear and varied. In our prayer garden we can see shapes, contours, and designs to surpass any art gallery. "O Lord, Our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth."



We adults respond to these sensations daily. And we wanted to help the children who come to Brethren House experience similar feelings of awe and wonder at the "variety you have made." So one morning recently one of the choices of activity for them was to "read a secret message" that we encased in pill bottles for added intrigue. To my disappointment, only one little girl read the "secret message," which directed her to go sit in the prayer garden and discover the colors God made. She went, sat on one of the rugs I had strategically placed, and returned within 30 seconds. That was the extent of her looking. Hardly sufficient time to experience awe and wonder.

We gave it a second try the next Sunday. Another little girl found a secret message which read, "Go sit in the prayer garden and listen for all of the sounds God made." She too remained for about 30 seconds. Discouraged, I pondered the problem. Where had I learned to love God's handiwork? What had led me to enjoy looking and listening for God's messages as I sat in silence surrounded by His "variety"? Morning Watch and Vespers at camp during my young years came to mind. There we had enforced silence regularly. I don't remember much of what was said at those sessions, but, oh, the sensations of the experiences are still with me. The lake at Shipshewana, the trees on Vesper Hill at Camp Bethany—these places where I was "silent before God" have never left.

As in many of our endeavors at Brethren House, I realized that we needed to back up and help the children learn how to see and hear God's handiwork, how to "listen for God's message" in silence, how to "be still and know that I am God."

So yesterday we planned activities to help the children SEE some of what God has made. To call attention to the COLORS he has provided we set up an art easel in the small area between Brethren House and the fence marking the edge of the property. There each child in turn could use chalk on paper that he wet with water on a paint brush. The task card at this "learning station" read, "Look at the colors God made. Wet your paper with the paint brush. Then use the chalk to show these colors."

To show the lovely SHAPES evident in Nature, we set up a place for children to "draw around something God made." At this table were large sheets of paper and colored markers. Leaf shapes became the focal point as the children went to the prayer garden and collected leaves to draw around.

To point up the SYMMETRY, DESIGN AND TEXTURE of the things God made we provided a table, paper, and crayons for children to use in making leaf rubbings. To do this, they placed their papers over natural objects and rubbed the crayons over the paper. Of course the leaf or other object left its impression on the paper.

A very simple hymn that I had written the day before became the culmination of our discovering and doing during the worship time. Some of the work the children did fit into the large (18" x24") oaktag hymnbook on which I had printed the words,

"Morning is here  
God shaped his land,  
Dressed and designed  
By His own Hand."

Also Mike's special assignment to plant a mini-prayer garden for inside Brethren House provided the object lesson for me to use to point out to the children a review of the "variety God had created," the colors, lines, designs, textures, and symmetry.

—Jean





## AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

NEW YORK, Dec. 1—The Polish government recently granted the Bible Society in Poland permission to print and distribute 50,000 copies of a new translation of the Bible. It is intended to give Polish readers a more modern translation than the influential Gdanska Bible, which was issued in 1632.

Distribution of the new Bible began on September 1. The translation was sponsored by the eight Protestant and Orthodox churches in the Polish Ecumenical Council. It strives to make the Biblical text available in a form of contemporary Polish suitable for both study and worship services.

The new translation was printed by the Bible Society in Poland on paper supplied by the United Bible Societies. The paper was purchased through donations received from the UBS supporting societies including the American Bible Society. Interest in the new Bible has been so great that the Bible Society in Poland received 10,000 advance orders before distribution commenced.

The new translation is known as the Millennium Bible. When the four Gospels in the new version were first published in 1964, Poland was celebrating the 1,000 year anniversary of the advent of Christianity into Poland. It was decided to name

the new translation in commemoration of this event. The New Testament was published in 1966 and the Book of Psalms in 1971.

The Bible Society in Poland was founded in 1816 as a branch of the British and Foreign Bible Society and has operated continuously ever since except for temporary interruptions during the two world wars. The Society's bookstore in Warsaw is the only Bible bookstore in the country. It supplies many Scriptures by mail in response to requests stimulated by Christian radio programs broadcast from Western Europe and heard in Poland.

Since Vatican II the Bible Society has been serving larger numbers of Roman Catholics as well as its historic constituency among the Protestant and Orthodox churches. Many Roman Catholic leaders are encouraging their people to buy and read the new translation.

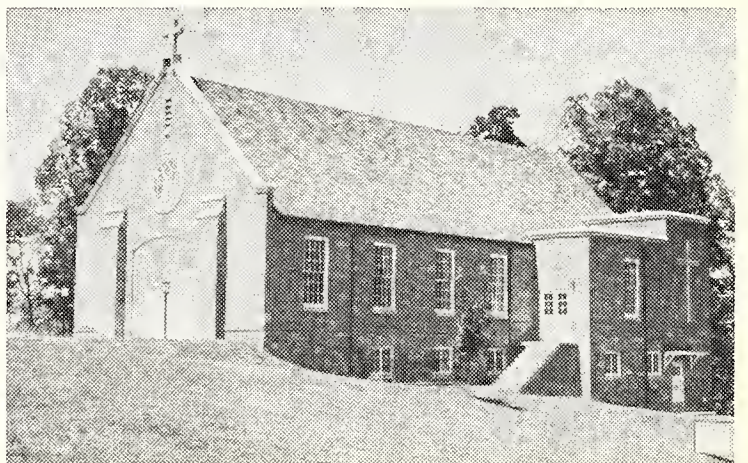
The Polish Ecumenical Council and the Bible Society in Poland are also sponsoring another modern Polish translation of the New Testament along the lines of the American Bible Society's "Good News for Modern Man" (the New Testament in the Today's English Version). Publication of this translation is projected for 1977.

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*During your visit to the nation's Capitol in the Bicentennial year, don't forget to visit the Washington Brethren Church, located on the corner of Branch Avenue & Q St. S.E., just one block north of Pennsylvania Avenue.*

*The Sunday services are at 10:00 A.M., 11:00 A.M. & 7:15 P.M.—Midweek service on Wednesday at 7:30 P.M.*

*For further information or assistance during your visit, please feel free to call or write the church at 3140 'Q' St. S.E. Washington, D.C. 20020—(202) 581-3387 Or contact Pastor R. Keplinger at (301) 423-0862. Looking forward to your visit in 1976!*





## LISTEN TO THE PSALMS SPEAK

by Mrs. Pauline Benschoff

**Call to Worship:** Let us read a few verses from Psalms 91. (Use the EVANGELIST copy)

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the almighty. Because thou hast made the Lord which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil come before thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

**Singing:** He's Everything to Me

I will Sing of the Goodness of the Lord  
Surely Goodness and Mercy

**Prayer Circle:** Choose a person to lead in conversational prayer. Be concerned about the prayer requests and above all, everyone take part.

**Leader:** The more we read the Word the more we should want to. When we don't want to read it, something is wrong in our life. Dwight L. Moody said "Either this book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this book". Another theologian has said "The gospel feeds you, then it makes you hungry." So we never can read it too much. The Word is our guidebook through life's journey and we just can't afford to be caught off course or not following our guide. We are to read the Word and delight in it and meditate upon its truths. From our Call to Worship tonight, did you hear anything that you didn't know or think about before? (take time for the girls to enumerate the messages from Psalm 91)—

**Group Activity:** Divide into two study groups. Give Psalm 103:1-5 to one group and Psalm 105:1-5 to another group. Give each group time to read their reference or have a member of the group read it to them. Choose a recorder for each team. She will write down what her team discusses and finds out, in relation to these two questions: What Has God Done?—What are We to Do or Say? Allow about three to five minutes and then call them back. Use a chalk board or hanging chart paper to write down what they found out under the questions asked. After the recording is all done, go over the list of things and try to relate them to our lives today. What have we really found out that can help us know what God has done and what we are to do or say?

**Leader:** I have some brief thoughts on these slips of paper which I will pass to each of you. Read them over, then we will take our turns telling what is on our paper so that we can learn more about the Book of Psalms.

1. The Psalms is sometimes called the National Hymn Book of Israel. It contains one hun-

dred and fifty poems to be set to music for worship. Worship is the main idea of the Psalms.

2. The Psalms praise the Lord, exalt His attributes, His names, His Word and His goodness. Every human experience we have is related to Him.
3. We can relate to the Psalms very easily because we can see ourselves in all our experiences of joy and sorrow, victory and failure.
4. The Psalms are full of Christ. They tell of His suffering and death.
5. All we need to do is to name our sin to God and tell Him we are sorry for it and want to be set free by the blood of Jesus and He will do it. We must also make things right with those we have wronged too. This is what David did and the Bible says David was a man after God's own heart, which meant David pleased God.
6. The Psalms were written for the heart to worship God anywhere, anytime, any place.
7. It is a book for the sinner, telling him of God's great mercy and forgiveness.
8. In time of trouble or death, it brings comfort.
9. It is a book for the Christian leading him into new and meaningful experiences with the Lord.
10. Every Psalm is a direct expression of the souls consciousness of God.
11. It is the book which after we read it, we rest and pray. It has a cleansing effect upon us. We want and we seek God's help and cleansing power.

### Poem: OUR MISSION

To do the kind and friendly deed,  
to see the want, and to meet the need  
To seize the chances that come along  
to ease the strain and to right the wrong.  
To bring a smile to the frowning face,  
to flash a light in the gloomy place,  
To spread the gospel of happiness  
where hearts are heavy and cares depress.  
To help each other along the road,  
to lend a hand, and to share the load,  
To take the best and brightest view,  
that's what we're put on this earth to do.

Patience Strong—

**Leader's Closing Thought:** Let's read our Bible every day, so we know what to do, how to act, and what to say.

**Business:**

**Benediction:**

Refreshments & Fellowship:..(Bring along materials to make a valentine for each other. Draw names first, and then make the valentine for the person whose name you drew. Have fun. Tell each other "I Love You, or God loves you" or both.





# CHURCH NEWS

## NEWARK, OHIO



The Newark Brethren Church wishes to announce a much anticipated event to be held on February 1, 1976 at 2:30 P.M. It is the celebration of the final payment of all of its mortgages and is scheduling a Mortgage Burning Ceremony for that afternoon. The program for the day will include the Sunday School hour at 9:30 A.M. the morning Worship Service at 10:45 A.M. to be followed by a pot-luck dinner at 12:30 P.M.

A brief resume of the history of the church is as follows: In Sept. 1970 the last payment on the church parsonage was made at which time the deed to the property was presented to the church by the Missionary Board. Nov. 1972 is the date the church became incorporated in the State of Ohio.

January 1973 the deed to the church building was given to the congregation by the Missionary Board along with a \$10 Club gift of \$10,342 which was applied to the mortgage held by the local bank. In June of 1973 the last payment was made on the mortgage with the Mission Board Revolv-

ing Fund. November 1975 the mortgage held by the local bank in Newark was paid off and in December of 1975 the church made its last payment on a mortgage held by the Ohio District Mission Board.

The ushering in of the year 1976 was jubilantly observed in that the Newark Church was now self-supporting. It gratefully acknowledges the support of the National Mission Board, the Ohio District Mission Board, the Ohio District Conference and the many people throughout the brotherhood who unselfishly gave to assist in the establishment of this church. Along with a desire that the prayers of the entire denomination be directed to the challenge of the New Year and be according to God's will for the Newark Brethren Church is issued an invitation to all within traveling distance of Newark, Ohio to share in this momentous occasion.

—Rev. Alvin Grumbling, Pastor



## LEVITTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA



"The Fairless Hills-Levittown Brethren Church celebrated its first Homecoming Day on Sunday, September 21, 1975. The day began with Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. followed by the Worship Service at 10:40. A carry-in type dinner was then held in the fellowship hall with approximately 110 participating. A brief program was presented following the meal. Introductions were made by Moderator Rodger Rhodes. Evan Cutshall acted as Master of Ceremonies, and others taking part were Mrs. Gilbert Hoffman, Mrs. Fred Hess, Mrs. John Kifer and Robert Adams.

"As a closing to the morning worship service the congregation moved to the outside to hold services of dedication for a new Church Bulletin Board which was purchased from a memorial fund given in memory of Mrs. S. Elizabeth Welty who passed away on May 6, 1974. Mrs. Welty was from Scottsdale, Pa. before relocating to Levittown. She served the Lord and the Church in many ways from the time of its inception. Her memory will linger for many years to come. We wish to thank all those who contributed to the cost of the sign and also those who erected it, namely, Kurt Seifert, Burton Demi, Allen Demi, Sr. and Allen Demi, Jr.

"The morning worship service and dedication service were in charge of Pastor Kenneth R. Howard who had just arrived at the Levittown Church having been called to serve here at the close of his ministry in Peru, Indiana. Needless to say, this was a large burden to place upon him at such a short notice but the guidance of the Holy Spirit was apparent as many blessings were received from this day.

"We here at Levittown want to take this opportunity to publicly welcome the Howards and we look forward to a great ministry under God's direction. We would appreciate the Brethren upholding Levittown in prayer as we branch out into a time of Church growth by means of soul winning, visitation, etc."

In Christ,  
Robert H. Adams, Chairman,  
Pastoral Relations Comm.

## KOKOMO, INDIANA

In 1975 eleven people were baptized into the Faith. We saw the revival of WMS, Laymen and Brethren Youth groups. They now meet regularly for fellowship. From no active youth we now have a group of about fifteen. The idea came from the past WMS president, Madge Dutchess. We have a Sunday evening dinner and meeting afterwards which involves the whole family.

We had BYC delegates at District and National Conferences for the first time. Two new Bible Study Groups have been started, one by the church women on Friday mornings, where they invite non-church people to attend. The other study involves the Youth, lead by Richard Reed, one of our laymen. We have an on-going Learning Center

guided by our church Secretary, Liz Surbey. The church purchased a parsonage last year. In September we had a celebration for our fifteenth anniversary. We are on the move.

The reason for all of this is that a high percentage of our people want things to happen here so they do something about it. The ideas, programs and personal contacts are mostly made by the people, not the pastor and it's working for growth.

I'm happy to share this with you. I hope every church takes the time to let the rest of us know what's happening among the Brethren.

—Dave Cooksey



# news ... from the Brethren

## Memorials



### MILLER

Dwight L. (Mike) Miller, 69, of St. Petersburg, Florida passed away July 10, 1975. He had been a resident of Smithville, Ohio until moving to Florida 3 years ago. Mike had served a number of years on the Ashland College Board of Trustees and had been an active member of the Smithville Brethren Church.

He is survived by his wife, Nora Jean of St. Petersburg, Florida; and 3 daughters, Mrs. Lila McCann of McGaheysville, Virginia; Mrs. Maryln Weidenhamer of Flat Rock, Michigan; Mrs. Ann Hile of St. Petersburg, Florida; nine grandchildren; 2 brothers and 3 sisters.

Memorial services were conducted by Rev. Marlin L. McCann and Mr. Jim Hile. Interment was in St. Petersburg, Florida.

### MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

#### Mt. Olive Brethren Church—14 by baptism

Six new members received into the Sarasota First Brethren Church November 30th: Five by baptism—one by letter.



The above photograph was loaned to The Brethren Publishing Company by Mr. D. Lee Garber of Mansfield, Ohio. The only person identified in this picture which is of the personnel of The Brethren Publishing House of 1887 is the gentleman seated at the table, Aaron Leedy Garber who later started up a printing plant which is still operating today as The A. L. Garber Company, Ashland, Ohio.

If any of our readers of our publication can furnish the names of any or all of the other persons shown in the photograph we would be most appreciative if this information would be sent to the editorial office of The Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805.





## NEWS BRIEFS

### MUSHROOMING COUNSELING GROUPS FORCES PUBLICATION OF LEADER'S GUIDE

WHEATON, Ill.—A program in Washington, D.C. for training pastors and laymen in Christian counseling is only midway through the 16-week course, but participants are so enthusiastic about the subject and its potential that they are already passing on what they have learned to satellite groups.

Launched Oct. 6 by the National Association of Evangelicals with Program Director John C. Broger, information director at the Pentagon, the pilot group averages 175-180 in attendance for the weekly two-hour sessions. The program is based on "Competent To Counsel" training materials authored by Dr. Jay Adams, counselor at the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation in Hatboro, Pa.

Putting into practice what they are currently learning, clergy and lay students have been astounded by the response of "hurting" people to the practical, biblically based solutions to life-shattering problems. To meet the widespread need, program participants are passing on the principles to groups of friends and constituents in their own locale.

This has necessitated the introduction of a new tool to complement the counseling material already in use. The National Association of Evangelicals has published a "Group Leader's Guide," authored by John Broger, to accompany the "Handbook for Christian Counseling," the study guide for persons taking the course.

A 12-hour cassette course of self-study is also available from "Competent To Counsel," N.A.E., Box 28, Wheaton, IL 60187.

### "SCRIPTURES TO LIVE BY" LAUNCHES NAE BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM

WHEATON, Ill.—Two new full-color Bible Reading Guides for the year 1976 are being offered to church congregations as the first phase of NAE's Bicentennial Program, "Let Freedom Ring."

"Scriptures to Live By," in a choice of two outlines, are produced in a format to fit Bible or purse, and include a column for marking off day-by-day references as read. A unique unsequential "Through the Bible in a Year" outline enables a person to read the whole Bible during 1976. Or if a "topical" outline is preferred, there is an outline of Daily Bible Readings on "Great Themes of the Church." Monthly topics include "God's Great Acts for Us," "Life with God," "Principles for Living with Others," "Lessons in Leadership," etc. Posters with coordinated art are also available for church promotion of daily Bible reading by individuals during the bicentennial year.

Subsequent phases of NAE's Bicentennial Program are "Day of Prayer," March 5; "Day of Witness," April 16; and "Day of Worship and Thanksgiving," July 4.



NAE's outreach program for the  
Bicentennial Year of the nation.

Materials available to assist in  
planning special days of emphasis  
in your church and community.

March 5—Day of Prayer

April 16—Day of Witness

July 4—Day of Worship and  
Thanksgiving

Join other evangelicals in a  
**creative witness**  
during America's Bicentennial

Write today for a free informa-  
tional brochure. A sample packet  
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Send name and address to:

NAE Bicentennial Program  
National Association of Evangelicals  
Box 28, Wheaton, Illinois 60187







## *News Release*

### **A Contrast to the Battle of Jericho**

Whereas the walls came tumbling down at Jericho, the walls are up, capped with rafters and furring strips ready for drywall at Bradenton, Florida. This word just received from Jim Payne, National Laymen's Organization president. Along with the good news of the progress being made comes a plea for carpenters, plumbers and electricians. (Between the lines of the communique is a request for some "medics" to take care of the hammered fingers.)

Lodging is provided in campers parked on the site and in a nearby motel with reasonable rates. The noon meal is obtained at a nearby school for 85¢.

The attendance at the Bradenton Church on December 7, was 80 and worship services hopefully will be held in the new building January 4, 1976.

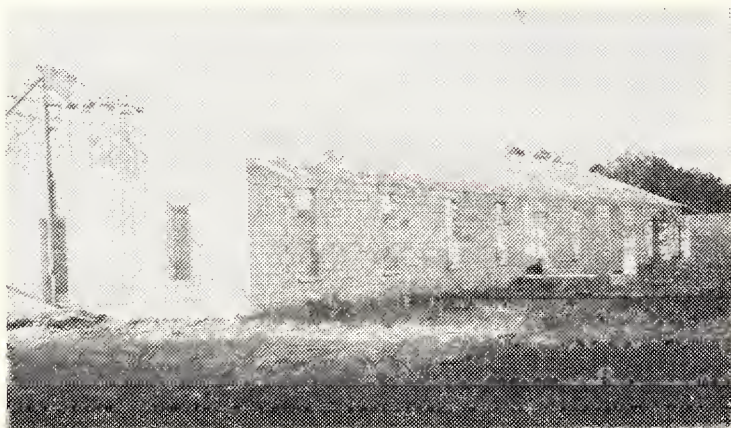
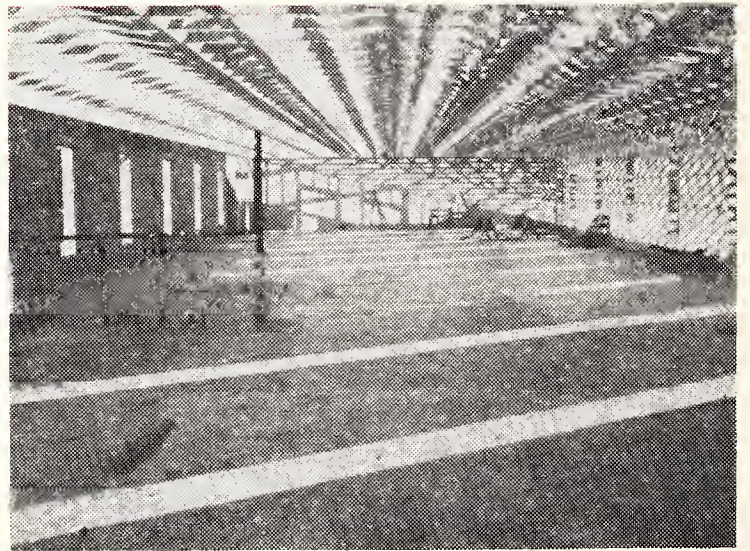


Photo credit—LaVergne Stone



# SPECIAL OFFER



**ATTENTION:**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS**

**CHURCH LIBRARIANS**

**PASTORS**

THE FOLLOWING VALUABLE RESOURCES  
FOR TEACHER/LEADER TRAINING  
FROM GOSPEL LIGHT PUBLICATIONS

	List Price		List Price
WAYS TO HELP THEM LEARN		BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES	
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YOUTH	2.65		
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		PLAN BOOKS	
WAYS TO PLAN AND ORGANIZE		EARLY CHILDHOOD	1.95
YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL		CHILDREN	1.95
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## NEARING COMPLETION



**RONK MEMORIAL CHAPEL**

The construction is on schedule and should be completed by the end of the year. The entire project is proceeding as planned and will be even more beautiful than anticipated. Dedication of the beautiful chapel will be at General Conference time—1976.

### Items still needed:

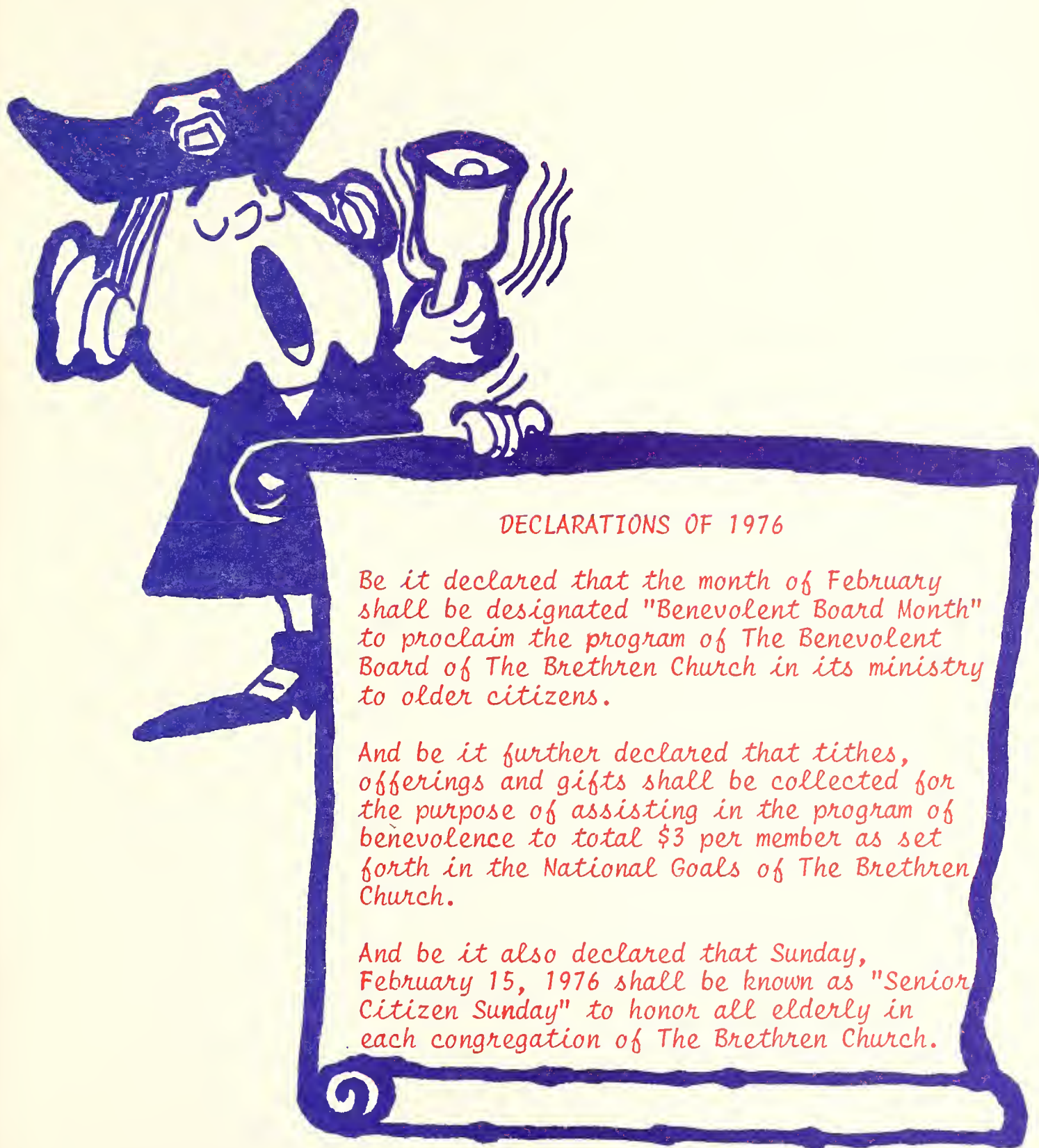
Carpet—	\$2,500.00
Razing of houses, and parking—	3,000.00
Piano—	

The Seminary has never had an adequate piano. The two pianos are either broken and/or will not hold tuning. Perhaps someone has a grand piano and would like to present it as a gift. (A tax receipt could be issued for the value.)

Together, we pray that God will use this new facility for the preparation of men and women for the Gospel ministry for the evangelization of the world!



# *The Brethren* **EVANGELIST**



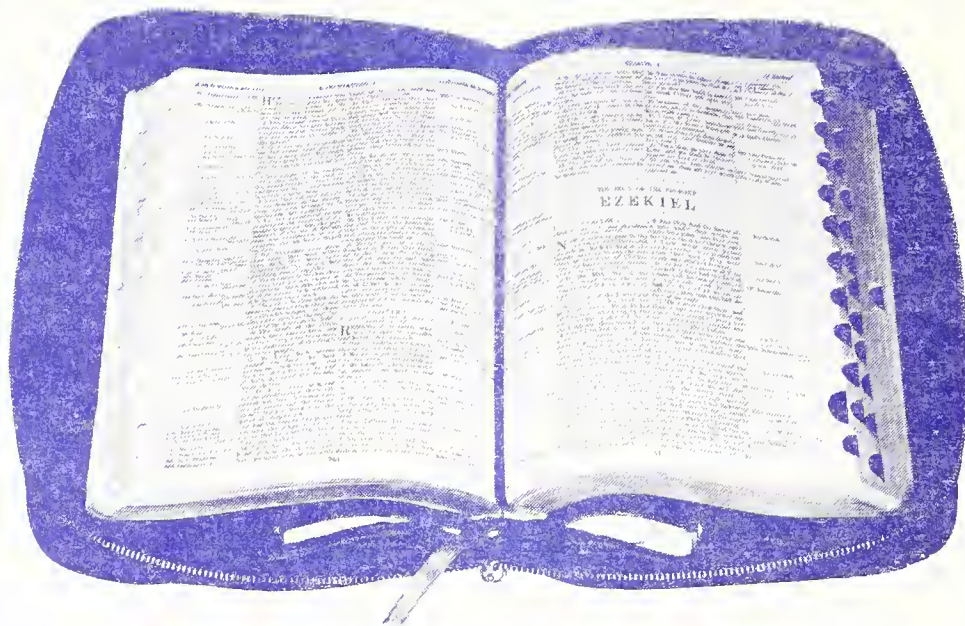
## DECLARATIONS OF 1976

*Be it declared that the month of February shall be designated "Benevolent Board Month" to proclaim the program of The Benevolent Board of The Brethren Church in its ministry to older citizens.*

*And be it further declared that tithes, offerings and gifts shall be collected for the purpose of assisting in the program of benevolence to total \$3 per member as set forth in the National Goals of The Brethren Church.*

*And be it also declared that Sunday, February 15, 1976 shall be known as "Senior Citizen Sunday" to honor all elderly in each congregation of The Brethren Church.*

**February 1976**



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# **The BIBLE**

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6. Jerusalem Version (1968) translated by Roman Catholic Scholars
7. New English Version (1970) sponsored by major denominations of Great Britain
8. Amplified Version (1954) intended to supplement other translations
9. New International Version - New Testament only (1973) intended to clarify



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# The Brethren EVANGELIST

VOL. XCVIII

FEBRUARY 1976

NO. 2

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are encouraged to query the managing editor in writing before sub-  
mitting a completed manuscript. A writers' packet with query tips  
is available upon written request.

## NOTES and COMMENTS

The month of February has been design-  
ated as the month for the Benevolent Board  
emphasis in the program of the Brethren  
Church. These days are dedicated to pro-  
claiming the ministry of the Benevolent  
Board to older citizens through health care  
units, retirement apartments, consultative  
and informational services, and programs  
for retirees such as GAF.

The Benevolent Board month is also a  
time of collecting tithes, offerings, and gifts  
for the purpose of assisting in the Brethren  
Church's program of benevolence. Some  
churches who are on a budget system con-  
tribute at regular intervals during the year,  
while others take this offering only in  
February. The National Goals of the Breth-  
ren Church call for a Benevolent Board  
offering of \$3 per member which some  
churches have been giving, but a number of  
others have not. The Benevolent Board  
urges individuals and congregations to con-  
sider this goal and the needs of our elderly  
as they give in this Bicentennial year of  
1976.

Sunday, February 15, 1976, is being set  
aside as "Senior Citizens' Sunday" in all  
Brethren Churches. We urge each congre-  
gation to mark this special Sunday by hon-  
oring all persons 62 years of age or older.  
Some ideas for this recognition might be:

—Recognize all senior citizens in the con-  
gregation at the morning worship ser-  
vice, which might include a sermon on  
the elderly based on such texts as Psalm  
71 and Ecclesiastes 12, a flower for each  
senior citizen, and announcement of the  
"Senior Citizen of the Year" award to  
be made locally by July 15, 1976, and  
submitted for national consideration  
(see Declaration VI)

—Have a fellowship meal for the entire  
church with senior citizens as honored  
guests

—Provide transportation for all elderly  
who need it to attend the "Senior Citi-  
zens' Sunday" programs

—Visit those elderly who are unable to  
attend the programs, presenting them  
with flowers and perhaps playing a tape  
of the worship service.

Make February 1976 a landmark event  
for your elderly and the benevolent ministry  
of the Brethren Church!

The February Senior Sisterhood program  
arrived too late for inclusion in the January  
issue. It appears in this issue on page 31.

# Church Finance

by Manfred Holck Jr.

## HOW DO YOU COUNT THE CASH?\*

*Mr. Holck presents an interesting approach to the handling of church monies in this month's column. You may agree or disagree with his point of view, or you may have a better suggestion. We'd like to hear your reaction. Send your comments to: Church Finance, in care of the BRETHREN EVANGELIST.*

There is a right way to count your congregation's cash and to keep a record of it, too.

Here's why: The Sunday morning offering is the most important source of revenue for your congregation. More cash, bills and checks are received at that time than on any other day of the week. Accounting for your congregation's money and safeguarding it are obviously very important.

Maybe you aren't personally involved in handling the money. Maybe you don't even know how it is done or who does it in your congregation. But you do want to make sure all of that money gets to the bank, don't you?

Then, here's how: Two people (always **at least** two people) must be around that cash all the time! That's right. One of the most basic accounting principles for internal control of cash requires that no one person ever have independent access to an organization's cash.

And that doesn't mean you don't trust your church treasurer. Of course you do. But the likelihood of improper handling of cash (that's what embezzlement is all about) is reduced considerably when two people must collaborate.

So two people (or more) should remove the offering from the altar, take it to the counting room, sort and count the cash, prepare the deposit, and take the money to the bank. Inconvenient? Perhaps, but extremely important!

Not only that, but there is another principle of internal control that says different people must perform different tasks. That means that the same person should not record cash received and write checks, too; or record individual members' contributions and count the money, too; or write checks and reconcile the checkbook, too.

Eliminate the temptation to fraud, and you eliminate the suspicions of fraud when something goes wrong.

So, whoever counts the money does not keep the record of what each member contributes. Whoever records cash received and deposits made does not count the money or write the checks. And whoever writes the checks does nothing else with cash, not even reconciling the bank statement. All of those things are done by different people.

If all of that sounds peculiar to you or cumbersome or unrealistic, just ask the professional accountants in your town what they would do.

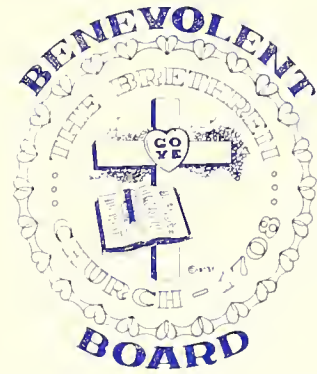
Good internal control, therefore, requires that no one person should have access to cash alone and that the functions of accounting be divided among several people.

I realize that the way your congregation handles its cash may not be at all like this. But if it is not, you should ask your official Board why not. After the money is missing may be too late, and it may be embarrassing besides. Prudent congregational leaders will insist on counting and recording the cash right the first time around.

*\*Copyright 1975 by Manfred Holck, Jr. For additional information on other topics related to church or clergy finance, write to the author in care of this newspaper or magazine. Mr. Holck is editor of CHURCH AND CLERGY FINANCE, the bi-weekly financial newsletter for clergy, and publisher of Church Management's THE CLERGY JOURNAL.*



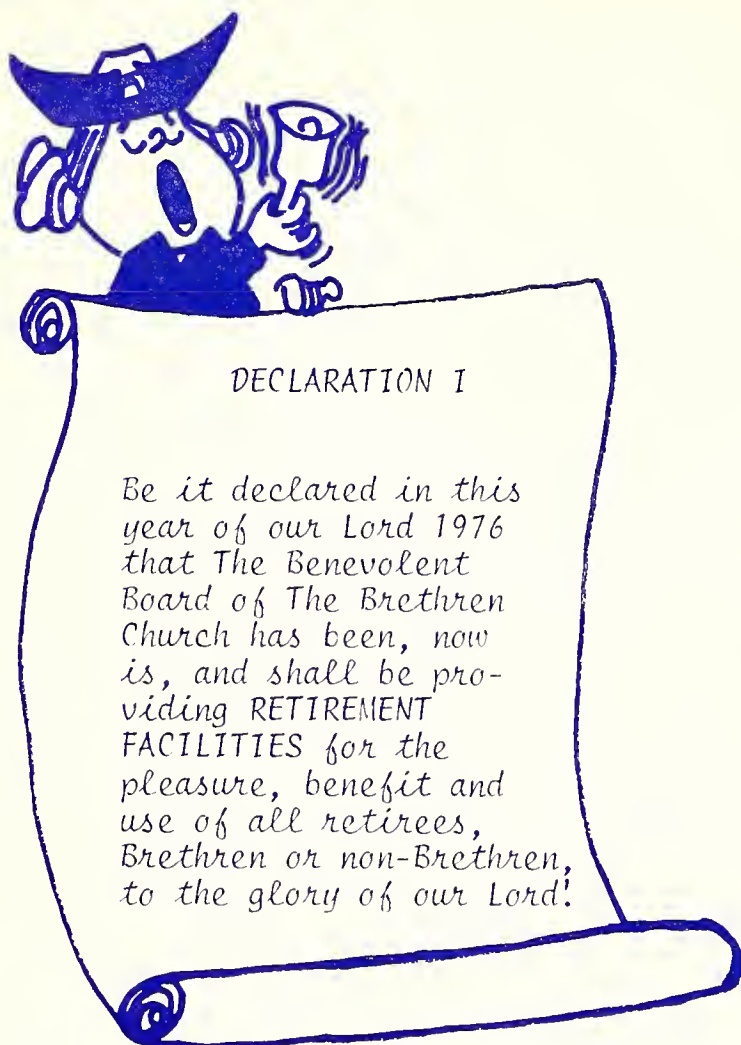
# The Benevolent Board



proclaims



# The Declarations of 1976 ...



### DECLARATION I

*Be it declared in this year of our Lord 1976 that The Benevolent Board of The Brethren Church has been, now is, and shall be providing RETIREMENT FACILITIES for the pleasure, benefit and use of all retirees, Brethren or non-Brethren, to the glory of our Lord!*

The three cottages built in 1952 at The Brethren's Home, Flora, Indiana, were fore-runners of the fast growing program of retirement facilities sponsored by the Benevolent Board. The concept of independent living with nursing care at hand, if needed, was in the embryo stage during the years when these were the only apartments available, but the picture changed in 1972:

**BRETHREN CARE** — Ashland, Ohio, opened its doors in August, 1972. It includes three apartments for independent living. Plans are now on the drawing board for 69-89 more apartments at Brethren Care, Ashland, with construction to begin possibly in 1976.

**BUCKEYE APARTMENTS** — Ashland, Ohio, were completed in June, 1973. Nine apartments (5 one-bedroom and 4 two-bedroom) for retirees are located on College Avenue near the Park Street Brethren Church. Features of the unit are brick and cedar exterior, covered center walkway, laundry room, carport, complete kitchens, carpet, air conditioning, individual patios, and ample storage.

**BRETHREN VILLAGE** — Flora, Indiana, became a reality when renovation of the original building and cottages into 13 apartments was completed in 1974. Ten more apartments are now under construction and should be completed early in 1976, perhaps by the time this information reaches your hands. Additional apartments are on the drawing boards as the demands for independent living with health care nearby continue to increase.

**BRETHREN CARE** — Pennsylvania, will probably begin construction in 1976 with the goal of a complete retirement center. A 36-acre gift of land near Vinco, Pennsylvania, will be the site of this much needed facility in that area. Initial construction will provide approximately 167 apartments in a six-story building with more to be added as needed. Small clusters of apartments are also planned in the total development.

**TOPSFIELD TERRACE** — South Bend, Indiana, is the name of the retirement center to be constructed under the auspices of Brethren Care of South Bend, Inc. The site is at Inwood and Ironwood in the southern section of South Bend. Construction may begin sometime in 1976 and will include approximately 150 apartments in two-story structures.

If you are preparing for retirement living, consider our facilities which provide comfort and security. For further information on any of our retirement centers, contact us:

**THE BENEVOLENT BOARD**  
625 Center Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805  
Phone: (419) 325-3696





## DECLARATION 11

*Be it declared in this year of our Lord 1976 that The Benevolent Board of The Brethren Church will continue in the future, as it has in the past and is in the present, to minister to the needs of the elderly through HEALTH CARE UNITS in honor of God and according to His commands!*

*Signed*

The work of benevolence, ministering to the needs of the elderly, began for the Brethren Church in 1923. Doors of The Brethren's Home at Flora, Indiana, opened that year and provided health care for the elderly, which has continued to the present.

A modern nursing unit with 46 beds was opened in May, 1968, and 40 more beds were added in June, 1975. Equipment and facilities have been updated to meet federal and state regulations. New programs, such as crafts and therapy, have been incorporated to improve the ministry to our elderly at Flora. A well-trained, concerned staff adds the personal attention and competent medical skills needed for excellent resident care. Mrs. Rosemary Eddy is Administrator of The Brethren's Home of Indiana, Inc.

Brethren Care at Ashland, Ohio, began its 100-bed operation in August, 1972, as the second retirement facility sponsored by the Benevolent Board. Residential and nursing care are provided in this building of unusual design. Special features are an Italian mall atmosphere and constant fresh air replacement in the entire building. An activities program aids the care given by the qualified staff. Plans for the next year include construction of residential care rooms in an apartment/service complex. This will allow all the present building to be used for nursing care. L. E. Seaman is Administrator of Brethren Care, Inc., of Ashland.

Brethren Care Inc. of Pennsylvania is now in the advanced stages of planning, and final drawings are being completed. The site has been partially cleared, and construction of an 82-bed nursing unit will hopefully begin in 1976. An administrator and staff members will be needed when the health care unit begins operation.

Brethren Care of South Bend, Inc., has obtained land in the Topsfield Addition on the south side of South Bend, Indiana, for development of a complete retirement center. Construction of a 100-bed health care unit may begin in 1976 and become the fourth retirement center initiated by the Benevolent Board. This facility will be known as Topsfield Terrace.

All of our health care units need volunteer help, can use donations of various kinds, and have projects you can help accomplish. If you wish to aid in the ministry to our elderly, contact any of the facilities or the Benevolent Board.



### DECLARATION III

*Be it declared in this year of our Lord 1976 that The Benevolent Board of The Brethren Church will, through its Executive Director and office staff, continue to provide CONSULTATIVE AND INFORMATIONAL SERVICES to aid churches, groups and communities in wise programing and facility planning, informing members of programs available for the elderly through church and government agencies, giving insight into needs of older citizens, distributing the newest concepts and developments in the field of gerontology in honor of God's name!*

The Benevolent Board provides consultative services in the area of facility planning for districts or groups interested in construction of health care units or retirement apartments. Dorman Ronk, Executive Director, has visited a number of retirement centers across the country and has guided the expansion of The Brethren's Home of Indiana, Inc., at Flora, Indiana, as well as development of Brethren Care in Ashland, Ohio; Vinco, Pennsylvania; and South Bend, Indiana. His experience and knowledge in the field has also been called upon by other groups and communities considering the need for housing for the elderly.

The Benevolent Board staff is continually seeking out new information in the field of gerontology to improve the church's ministry to the elderly. This knowledge is then shared with the entire denomination through special publications and the **Evangelist**. Articles appear on a regular basis in the magazine dealing with new government programs available for the aging, needs of the elderly, ideas for programs in the local church to assist retirees, and special events for senior citizens.

We encourage congregations to send us articles and pictures of special local events for the elderly to be published in the **Evangelist**, as well as ideas of ways the church is ministering to the aging, to be shared with others.

New books and pamphlets in the field of gerontology are read and reviewed regularly by the office staff. Listings of valuable items for study, information, or pleasure reading are given from time to time by the Benevolent Board.

Working continuously with the elderly enables the staff to provide insight into the needs of our retirees. This knowledge is shared in publications, in devising new programs for senior citizens, and in consultation with individuals and groups who seek information.

If you have special need for help, advice or information on the aging, contact us at:

**THE BENEVOLENT BOARD**  
625 Center Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805  
Phone: (419) 325-3696  
Dorman Ronk, Executive Director



The Golden Agers Fellowship (GAF) of the Brethren Church provides for the retiree:

- Fellowship
- Activity
- Spiritual enrichment
- Practical help

Any church participating in the GAF program will soon discover that it is not only a vital program for senior citizens but a valuable asset to the church as GAF'ers reciprocate with help in many areas. There is no need to have pews full of "old people" who nod and sleep and go in and out. Retirees have the "know-how", time and experience to train younger people in church functions, hobbies, and skills, as well as to advise individuals and groups on various problems and programs.

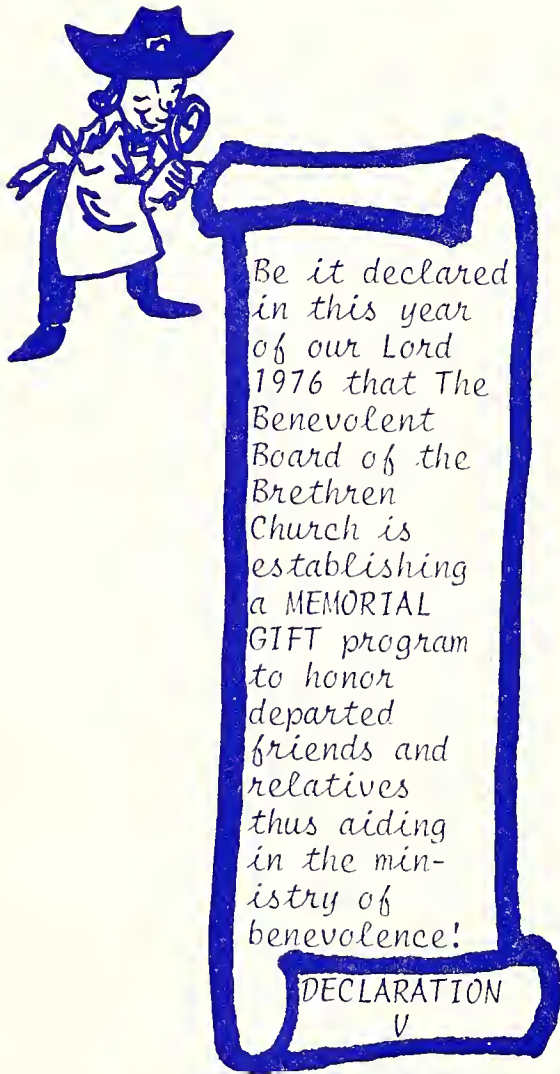
A few of our churches are developing a program for and with senior citizens, but more need to include GAF on their roster of church activities. Perhaps some congregations have considered doing something, but do not know how to begin. Following are some suggestions for initiating GAF in your church:

1. **Hold a Fellowship** — Invite all senior citizens of your congregation to a fellowship - potluck, salad and dessert, or light refreshments. Plan for time to discuss GAF and discover needs the elderly have that could be supplied through the program. This first fellowship could be initiated by an interested retiree(s), pastor, or younger person. You might want to hold this fellowship in conjunction with the "Senior Citizen of the Year" presentation suggested in Declaration VI.
2. **Appoint a Committee** — Desire for a Golden Agers Fellowship should come from within the group of retirees, although at times they may need a helping hand from another person(s) or group(s) in the church. Therefore, a committee should be formed to begin development of the GAF program to meet the specific needs of the group, which will vary from church to church and community to community.
3. **Survey of Interests** — Perhaps one of the first tasks of the committee should be to discern the interests and needs of the senior citizens in the church so they can plan meaningful programs and activities. A questionnaire should be developed that will be simple for retirees to record their interests and needs.
4. **Planning** — Planning programs to satisfy interests is not difficult but meeting needs is more challenging. The committee may act as a clearing house to make known what types of help are needed. They may feel the necessity of another committee to handle needs only. The group may be able to help each other in some areas, but in other instances help may have to be sought from other groups in the church who want service projects, such as WMS, youth groups, Laymen, Sunday School classes, and so forth. Also help may be obtained from community or governmental programs for the aging.



#### DECLARATION IV

*Be it declared in this year of our Lord 1976 that the GOLDEN AGERS FELLOWSHIP is an official segment of the program for aging sponsored by The Benevolent Board of The Brethren Church which is designed to promote understanding of the needs of our elderly, involve the retiree in meaningful programs and encourage the senior citizen to participate in church and community affairs according to the precepts of God's Word!*



A SPECIAL WAY WE CAN HELP YOU . . .  
... BY PROVIDING A SIGNIFICANT  
WAY TO HONOR A LOVED ONE,  
DEAR FRIEND OR RESPECTED  
ACQUAINTANCE . . .

is through a Memorial Gift to the Benevolent  
Board. Your Memorial Gift:

- Discharges a personal obligation to hon-  
or your friend or relative
- Lends a helping hand to the Benevolent  
Board's ministry to the elderly
- Provides privacy in giving which is non-  
competitive
- Is tax free to our not-for-profit church  
corporation for which you receive a tax  
receipt, something which is impossible  
with a direct gift to the deceased's  
family.

Families of those whose memories are so  
honored are notified of the contribution by  
an appropriate card the same day the memo-  
rial is received with the amount kept  
confidential.

A most satisfying way to honor the past  
is to invest in another life. Your Memorial  
Gift will be used to further the ministry of  
the Benevolent Board of the Brethren  
Church, which provides:

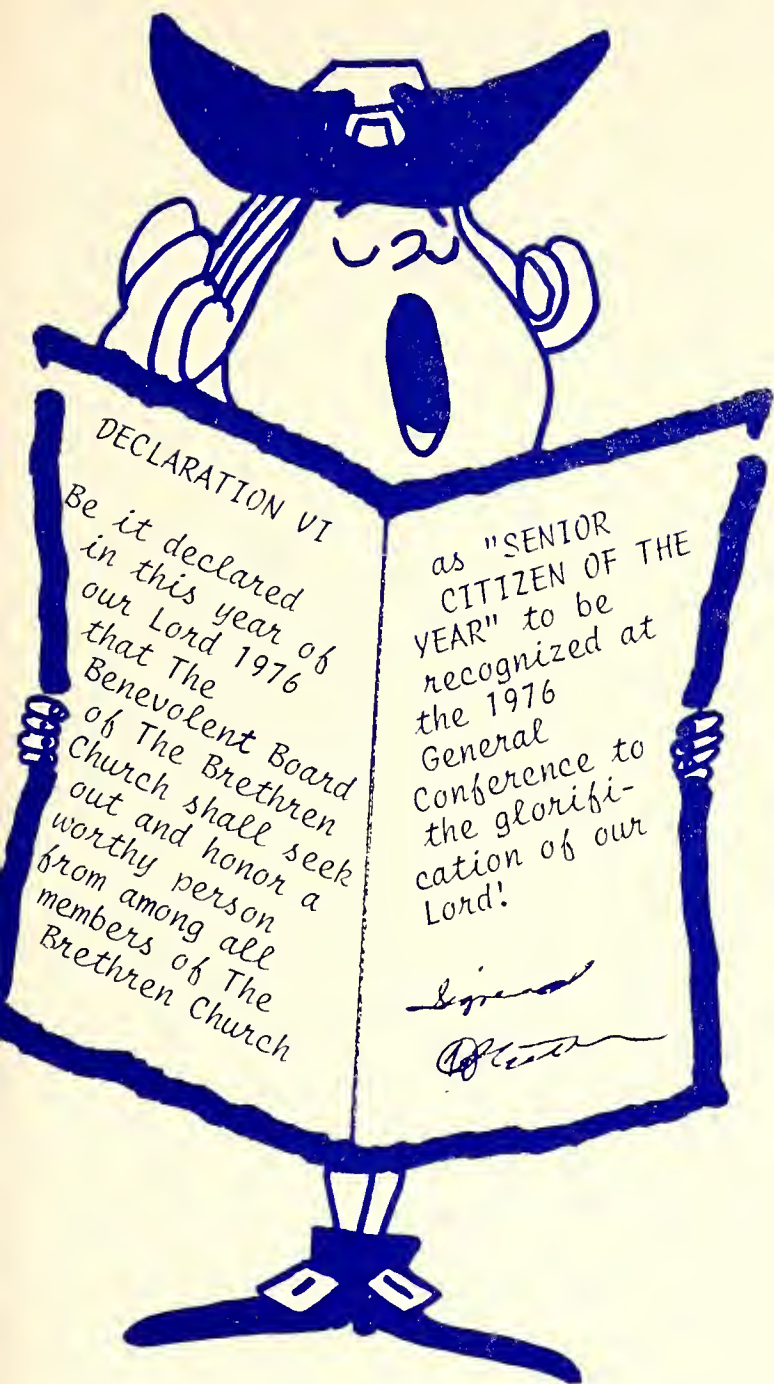
- Health care centers
- Retirement apartments
- Programs for the elderly
- Consultation services on:  
needs of the elderly  
types of facilities needed  
churches and governmental programs  
available to senior citizens
- Monthly gifts to retired ministers/  
wives.

Facilities operating under the auspices of  
the Benevolent Board are:

- The Brethren's Home of Indiana, Inc.,  
at Flora, Indiana
- Brethren Care at Ashland, Ohio
- Buckeye Apartments at Ashland, Ohio
- Martin House at Ashland, Ohio (govern-  
ment project managed by the Benevo-  
lent Board)
- Brethren Care of Pennsylvania at Vinco,  
Pennsylvania (currently in planning and  
construction stage)
- Brethren Care of South Bend, Inc., at  
South Bend, Indiana (currently in plan-  
ning and construction stage).

For your convenience in participating in  
the Memorial Gift Program of the Benevo-  
lent Board, a sample form is provided on  
page 12.





The Benevolent Board will honor a worthy nominee, 62 years of age, or older, as "Senior Citizen of the Year" at the 1976 General Conference. This individual shall be selected by the Board from among all applicants submitted by local Brethren churches.

Our objectives in this award are twofold:

1. **To make our congregations aware of the value of our elderly**
2. **To honor a worthy recipient for his service to the church and community.**

We suggest that all Brethren churches select their own "Senior Citizen of the Year" to be honored locally, selected by the same rules and qualifications as the national recipient, and submitted to the national office for consideration.

Qualifications for considering an individual as "Senior Citizen of the Year" are:

1. Service to the church
2. Service to the community
3. Service to individuals
4. Personal example of the Christian life.
5. Accomplishments in such areas as work, art, music, etc.

Procedures for selection:

1. Determine who will select the recipient: special committee, benevolent committee, etc. (national recipient to be selected by National Benevolent Board).
2. Provide application forms for all church members who wish to submit a nominee (see sample on next page). One nominee from each church will be accepted for consideration by the National Benevolent Board.
3. Set a date when all nominations must be received, have committee select one nominee, and present the award at a special church fellowship or Sunday worship service. The local nominee must be submitted for national consideration no later than July 15, 1976. A form for your local nominee to the national program will be sent to the pastor or church secretary.

**NOMINEE FOR  
SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Brethren Church

Year of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ married

\_\_\_\_\_ widow

\_\_\_\_\_ single

\_\_\_\_\_ widower

\_\_\_\_\_ divorced

If ever married, give spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_

Number of great grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_

Number of great great grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation during working years \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies or special skills \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List activities denoting service to the church:

List activities denoting service to the community:

List activities denoting service to individuals:

List accomplishments in such areas as work, art, music, etc.:

List examples of the nominee's personal Christian life and walk:

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**MY MEMORIAL GIFT**

(please type or print clearly)

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_, my memorial gift  
for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Please send a Memorial Card, announcing  
my gift, to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail to:

The Benevolent Board, 625 Center Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805



"1975—He was not in the whirlwind"

## RELIGION IN REVIEW

*We are again privileged to present the annual article by Norman B. Rohrer, Executive of the Evangelical Press Association entitled, RELIGION IN REVIEW. This year-end feature of religious news contains much that is not heard or read in our daily newscasts or daily newspapers. It is healthy to occasionally read between the lines of the normal news reports to see what is happening in the world that seems to be of little concern to the headline-seeking media and readers. (Ed. Note)*

The flickering lamp of 1975 has illuminated the corridors of history and disappeared. In the shadows lie the ashes of old and new wars, the bones of 12,000 people who starved every day, and the graves of stalwart missionaries who raised up God's standard against an increasing tide of evil. But the enduring mercies of the Lord were new every morning. Hope was never the missing cure.

Governments fell at the rate of one per month as society jerry-built on untested foundations planked with rampant pornography, unnatural sex between consenting adults, relaxation of drug controls, do-it-yourself divorce and delays in criminal justice.

People in the blooming years drank more (28% of youths became problem drinkers), smoked more (as decriminalized laws favored marijuana), used more drugs (costing Americans more than \$10 billion and 15,000 deaths), feasted on more nude scenes in drive-in movies approved by the U.S. Supreme Court, let TV violence jade their sympathies toward real-life violence and seized upon comments from the nation's First Family to self-endorse their sexual excesses and marijuana indulgence.

The "Jesus Movement" died, but 88 per cent of high school leaders said they believed in God or a "supreme being," and marriage grew more popular.

The "death of God" mood was dramatically reversed in 1975 and the Gallup Poll, extrapolating information from a mass of worldwide data, asseverated: "It would be demonstrably wrong to write off youth today as nonreligious." Volunteerism for short-term missionary stints abroad showed healthy increases.

Headlines revealed subtle trends: "Bible Society Property Taxable"; "Sociologist Tells Educators Capitalism Ruining America"; "Congress on Sorcery Held"; "Seattle Church Council Welcomes

Homosexuals"; "Voodoo Revival Foretold"; "Survey Shows Half of Students Used Drugs"; "Swedes May Swear Sans Bible."

Business schools in 1975 included courses on ethics. Owners of Watergate sold chunks of the carpet trod by political burglars at Democratic National Headquarters. Strange mutilations of animals on the Great Plains suspiciously pointed to witchcraft. Serious crime increased by 18 per cent (up two per cent from previous year).

A cocky Los Angeles County medical advisor successfully sued to stop an evangelical agency from requiring religious affiliations for prospective adoptive parents. The unprecedented decree is being appealed.

Americans found ways to overcome cultural bigotry and welcomed 84,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Women attempted to give God neuter gender, failed to push through the Equal Rights Amendment (despite the First Lady's endorsement), achieved ordination in churches from the Free Methodist to the Episcopal, married other women, paid alimony to husbands, and staged a mid-year international conference in Mexico City which was more political than spiritual. A psychoanalyst blamed liberated women for the increase in children's suicides.

Evangelical women sponsored "total woman" seminars while their sisters picketed. The record showed that evangelicals were, however, early and bountiful with women's ordinations and opportunities in the Church.



### Missions

Many in the global army of Christian workers were killed, kidnapped and imprisoned while others walked through open doors to unprecedented opportunities.

The year began optimistically as the U.S. Government's Agency for International Development donated \$425,000 to a consortium of 50



Protestant and Catholic mission societies to stimulate the work of volunteer agencies abroad. Nigerian Christians laid aside tribal differences and joined in a National Congress on Evangelization which rejected a moratorium on missionaries and affirmed unitedly that Christianity is "not an exclusively Western religion."

Church leaders from 12 Asian countries proclaimed their own "Declaration of Mission" before a gathering of 8,000 people. Their 3,400-word document called for the churches of the Third World to take their place as equal partners with the Western Church in completing the command of Christ to evangelize the world.

Believers in Brazil opened new preaching areas; Evangelist Luis Palau addressed all 22 Latin American nations from Managua's "Continente '75" through radio and TV hookups at a three-week stadium rally. Other large-scale evangelistic thrusts included six Billy Graham crusades—three stateside, three abroad, John Haggai in Ulster, Leighton Ford in Canada, Chris Panos in India, the united effort at Brussels called "Eurofest '75," the extended South Africa meetings of Africa Enterprise, "Scrum Dendo," a 10-week summer evangelistic outreach in Japan by the Language Institute for Evangelism denominational and missionary outreaches too numerous to list, fruitful camping ministries and the relentless, creative evangelism of groups like street-preaching Jews for Jesus and media programs.

The new nation of Papua listed 86 per cent of its citizenry as Christian. In Spain the new Evangelical Tabernacle opened its doors—one of the first to advertize itself as a church. Radio and literature outreaches to Russia proliferated. From Zaire came the call: "Send us more missionaries!"

Believers in Sri Lanka opened the "Year of Evangelism" and the spirit of the 1974 International Congress on World Evangelization at Lausanne lived on in the 48-member Continuation

and the arrest of many more. Anglican Missionary Filipe Antonio de Freitas was slain in Angola. Missionary Douglas Hill, M.D., was killed in Ethiopia while treating famine victims in Marabaska.

In Chad, hundreds of Christian converts were reportedly tortured and killed. French Protestant missionary Paul Horala was captured and held in Chad. Authorities in Mozambique arrested members of 10 churches, including representatives of the Church of the Nazarene and the Assemblies of God.

Five Lutheran leaders were arrested as political tensions heightened in Namibia, South Africa. In Malaysia a Baptist pastor and his family were held hostage in the U.S. Consulate by Japanese Red Army guerrillas.

American Evangelist Sammy Tippit and an associate were arrested by Soviet Police in Leningrad after the missionaries began passing out tracts and testifying of their faith. Georgi Vins, Baptist leader in the USSR, was sentenced to five years in prison to be followed by five years in exile on a charge of "damaging the interests of Soviet citizens under the pretext of religious work."

Chad expelled nine Swedish Protestant missionaries after placing them under house arrest for a week. Soviet police planted radioactive tracer paper to find and destroy an underground Christian press in the forests of the USSR.

Seven missionaries to Indochina, exposed to eight months of suffering and uncertainty in captivity, were released by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of Vietnam and tearfully reunited with their families.

Lebanon was split by a bloody civil war; Portugal's leftist government banned the Christian Democratic Party. Colombian authorities criticized Wycliffe Bible Translators for "proselytism" and "neo-colonialism" in their linguistic missionary outreach. Korea tightened police rule over religious freedom.

But missionaries didn't break stride. Interchristo's computerized service to missionary recruits installed a toll-free number to handle enlistments from youthful seekers after available global opportunities.

In a turnabout from tradition, believers from Third World countries sent missionaries to Western nations. Africans were dispatched to Britain; Japanese ministered in Texas and a Korean missionary, using his own money, came to America to "save the soul" of the United States.

## Denominations

Mainline churches in 1975 exploited media, sought united efforts, collected larger offerings (through credit cards for the first time) and looked for ways to use vast property complexes more than several times a week.

Billy Graham saw the U.S. in 1975 entering a fourth "Great Awakening," but Lutheran pastor John Neuhaus charged that the church was committing institutional suicide by joining secular forces in good causes for social justice.

In 1975 the World Council assembled in Nairobi—the first time in the Third World toward which the 271-member agency's center of gravity was shifting.

*—but 88 per cent of high school leaders said they believed in God or a "supreme being"—*

Committee. The Sudan Interior Mission found eager interest in TEE (Theological Education by Extension.) and Chinese officials touring the mainland reported great hunger for the Word of God.

As U.S. involvement in Indochina halted abruptly so did the work of missionaries. Mennonites reported in the aftermath, however, that the Vietnamese church was "strong and active."

The martyr's crown was divinely assigned in 1975. The bodies of Minka Hanshamp of New Zealand and Margaret Morgan of England were found in Thailand. The Swiss League for Human Rights reported that Equatorial Guinea's President Francisco Macias was pursuing "militant atheism" in his country which is 95 per cent Christian, leading to the death of some believers



## *As U.S. involvement in Indochina halted abruptly so did work of missionaries—*

Sunday schools declined in major denominations, flourished in conservative churches. Divorce among ministers was less a stigma. Tax reform did not reach traditional church exemptions. Security guards were hired for round-the-clock sanctuary protection. Church-sponsored credit unions prospered.

Southern Baptist membership soared close to 13 million and a record \$51 million budget was established. The Baptist World Alliance said the split among Soviet Baptist "appears to be healing. Baptists announced in convention that the Baptist World Alliance "does not represent the historic position of Bible-believing Baptists everywhere." American Baptist Churches were urged to invade all political activities. The new "Primitive Baptist Convention" was launched with 68 churches.

"Charismatics" split and cemented churches. They gathered 6,000 strong in Dallas where their glossolalia was denounced by W. A. Criswell as an "aberration," and where Southern Baptists removed two congregations from area membership because of charismatic involvement. The movement spurred amity through "significant cooperation" among Protestants and Catholics in North and South Ireland.

Episcopalians led in women's ordinations and pushed for decriminalizing marijuana. The Christian and Missionary Alliance formed the "Alliance World Fellowship" in 42 countries and opened churches for Vietnamese refugees in the U.S. when their Indochina mission bases closed.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod moved through doctrinal and legal tangles to an administrative phase, leaving the rift at the top unresolved, but a membership dip was slight. Income for the American Lutheran Church was up, but membership losses made leaders call for an "aggressive evangelistic outreach." An inter-church Lutheran council held its 20th meeting with Roman Catholics on papal infallibility and Lutherans collectively drafted several new eucharistic prayers for Holy Communion.

The two major Presbyterian denominations—the United Presbyterians Church in the USA and the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.—sought a joint headquarters for the first time since their Civil War split, but the issue of ordaining women caused a cleavage among clergy. The nation's newest Presbyterian fellowship (Presbyterian Church in America) grew to 100,000 and looked ahead positively.

More than a third of all United Methodist Churches in 1975 had fewer than 100 people, but the "Good News" movement within the 10-million-member church spiralled upward in membership. United Methodists came close to ordaining a

homosexual, but a poll showed 95 per cent against the action so the matter was dropped.

The Assemblies of God recorded a 10.6 per cent membership rise over two years. Membership outside the states was set at more than 4 million, making the denomination the largest Pentecostal church in the world.

Debtors of bankrupt Calvary Temple in Denver began receiving payments of \$7.65 million under a final arrangement ordered by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. Pastor and Mrs. Charles Blair sold their home, gave the proceeds to the church and began "living by faith" with the help of friends.

People of many faiths drew closer in formal and informal union. 1975 saw the formation of the World Association for Christian Communication, Baptist-Reformed theological alliances, an official set of marriage guidelines serving both Episcopalians and Roman Catholics, progress toward a church union of Scottish Presbyterians and Methodists, sanctuary sharing between Jews and Episcopalians, an announcement by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that it is willing to recognize the baptism of other faiths, the issuance of a joint Protestant-Roman Catholic "Common Catechism," and exploratory meetings between Southern Baptists and Roman Catholics. Christians supported Jews against Arabs when a United Nations motion condemned Zionism (not Judaism) as a "form of racism."

### **Education**

Private and church-related elementary and secondary schools enrolled nearly one-tenth of all U.S. students in 1975. Court dockets bulged with legislation governing non-public schools. Pennsylvania's Governor Milton J. Shapp asked for \$33 million for non-public schools, eventually got \$31 million despite a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that such laws were unconstitutional. Minnesota approved \$12 million for non-public school pupils, an action upheld by a U.S. District Court. Ohio's \$4 million-per-year parochial school aid plan was quashed by the U.S. Supreme Court but parents appealed, citing "religious freedom."

*Christians support Jews against Arabs as United Nations motion condemns Zionism (not Judaism) as a "form of racism."*

New York studied a bill offering \$1,000-a-child tax exemption for tuition-paying parents, although 59 per cent of New Yorkers opposed parochial aid. Washington voters killed a parochial aid bill and Maryland citizens defeated a proposed \$10 million-a-year school aid bill.

148 organizations united in 1975 to restore prayer in public schools. Tennessee eliminated the



requirement that the Genesis creation story be taught alongside evolution and creationists lost in California as the state Board of Education adopted new science and social science texts without the Biblical doctrine of creation.

The IRS announced it would demand proof of racial non-discrimination if schools file for federal income tax exemption and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld textbook loans but banned auxiliary school services, and equipment.

### Publishing

Sales of religious books boomed in 1975. 42 per cent of American families bought Bibles or other religious books. The American Tract Society celebrated its sesquicentennial. Readership in the Catholic press of North America rose to 23,492,737; member periodicals of the Associated Church Press recorded about half that figure; the 277 magazines of the Evangelical Press Association listed a readership approaching 11 million.

Logos International introduced a "grass roots" tabloid titled National Courier. Other new publishing ventures included Navpress of The Navigators, Catalyst of evangelical United Methodists, Horizon House of Canada's Evangelistic Enterprises Society, Christian University Press of Eerdmans and the Christian College Consortium, and Christian Herald House, to list a few.

Campus Life took first place in EPA's 1975 "Awards of Excellence" competition. The Christian Inquirer celebrated five years of publishing. Today Magazine failed, leaving American Methodism without a periodical for the first time in 150 years.

The U.S. Bicentennial theme appeared profusely in published materials on the eve of celebrations. Scriptures were distributed in more than 1,550 languages, the entire Bible in 257, the New Testament in 368. Friends of fledgling journalism students donated \$1,875 to EPA's new Mel Larson Journalism Scholarship.

### Broadcasting

God's people gave the winds a mighty voice in 1975, successfully opening new stations on Guam and in the Philippines.



A blizzard of 100,000 protests swamped FCC Chairman Richard E. Wiley's office as concerned people helped to defeat the Lansman-Lorenzo petition which asked the Federal Communications Commission to still the voices of religious broadcasters offering "24 hours of proselytization."

The year's biggest disappointment was the heavy dosage of sex and violence which continued through "family time" evening viewing. Millions of people, tired of being embarrassed by TV, concluded that the medium no longer was acting as a guest and had become instead an intruder.

### Race

Contacts between white and black Americans increased in 1975 and, according to the Institute for Social Research, attitudes shifted generally from negative to positive.

Bob Jones University, for the first time, permitted the enrollment of unmarried black students. One hundred evangelicals held a National Workshop on Race and Reconciliation in Atlanta and established a continuing program on racial understanding and social action. Members of the Progressive National Baptist Convention recommended that black Americans join in celebrating the U.S. bicentennial provided the celebration is a "call to repentance."

Urban Ministries, Inc. launched a new Sunday school literature series to correct the impression that Jesus is white Anglo-Saxon or that Christianity is the white man's religion. Campus Crusade for Christ sponsored "Harambe Holiday," a Chicago conference which drew 800 delegates, including 40 pastors.

Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun offered a sobering summary of the year: "The nation is ethically confused and is floundering morally." He called on the church to help recover an awareness of what is right and wrong.

The state of the world lends itself to dramatic concern. At year's end the spotlight of history focused on what is left of Karen Quinlan, 21 years old and weighing about 60 pounds on her hospital bed, dead, yet kept alive with oxygen from a mechanical respirator. But what is perhaps worse is the multitude of human beings throughout the world unplugged from a fulfilling existence in various ways each day. Hunger and disease keep them from a full and joyous existence. They cannot savor life, feeling only pain and frustration. No one will ever know what they might have been.

Society has spent more than \$100,000 on Karen Quinlan. Shall we not try as zealously to help living people to find the Light of Life?

God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;  
With us abide.

Lead us by faith to hope's true Promised Land;  
Be Thou our guide.

With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,  
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

—Hugh Thomson Kerr, 1871



# WORLD RELIEF REPORT

by Phil Lersch, Chairman  
Brethren World Relief Board

## Bangladesh: Open Door to Evangelism

*About the time you are reading this article, I will be returning from the 3-week tour of World Relief projects in Asia (from January 19 to February 9). In particular, we are scheduled to visit these projects (referred to below):*

*Dacope Project on January 23;  
Christian Hospital on January 26;  
Under-5-Children's Clinic on Jan. 26*

An article in **Atlantic Monthly** magazine last summer called Bangladesh "a portrait of tragedy," describing the people of that nation as "half-starved, dirt-poor and multiplying at a terrifying rate." Left to themselves, the magazine added, the country "could be heading for a tragedy unparalleled for the human race."

Already, this luckless young nation has been hit by a string of multiple disasters including a massive killer cyclone and tidal wave, a bloody war for independence (from Pakistan), mass starvation, widespread disease, and death-dealing floods. The tragedy spoken of by **Atlantic Monthly** does not seem far off.

Since that article was written last summer, the magnetic and appealing leader for their independence (Sheik Mujibur Rahman) and several dozen other civilian and military leaders have been killed "in a brutal power struggle that has been subdued only by martial law" (as stated by William Borders in the New York Times).

Mr. Borders also reports that "though the country's debt is mounting ominously, exports—which are necessary to pay it off—are declining.

"Rice is the mainstay food, and there is more of it this year than there has been in years, because the weather has been favorable for a change. But there are also many, many more people, with the result that per-capita consumption is less than it was 15 years ago.

"Despite the grim statistics, some people in the slum-infested capital city of Dacca see some hope in the new government, a non-political civilian administration directed by the military junta that took over early last month."

THE WORLD RELIEF COMMISSION IS DESPERATELY INVOLVED IN TRYING TO HEAD OFF FURTHER TRAGEDIES, BUT IT IS A BONE-WEARYING, TEAR-STREAKED TASK. WRC funds help:

- (1) **Develop projects aimed at eventual agricultural self-sufficiency at Dacope**, an area in the southwest corner of the nation.

- (2) **Support clinics for children under five years of age.** Often these clinics represent the only medical care the children will ever get.
- (3) **Assist Christian hospitals**, helping them to help their patients.

A new phase of WRC's Bangladesh work has been provided now that the Bangladesh government has registered the Christian Social Service (CSS), the national counterpart relief agency to WRC. In conjunction with CSS, WRC has particularly seen the experimental project at **Dacope** grow steadily toward self-sufficiency and become a model of successful agricultural development in that country.

The crops grown at **Dacope** provide **food for the body**. But WRC and CSS feel that equally important is the necessity of **food for the soul**. Thus, evangelism is an important new thrust of the work at **Dacope**. Most of the inhabitants of the **Dacope** area already know that WRC and CSS are there providing funds, help, teaching, and other aid because of the love of Jesus. The Word has been sown. WRC believes it is now time to reap the harvest.

With an initial \$2,500 investment by WRC the project is set to begin with two roving evangelists holding meetings and seminars in the **Dacope** region, where more than 5,000 families live. By 1977, CSS fully expects to carry the evangelism project forward as a total part of its many projects to help the Bengali people spiritually and physically.

In addition, WRC helped fund a special youth leaders' retreat in October for the Garo tribespeople of Bangladesh. Officials believe the conference capitalized on a newly-evident spiritual interest among the Garo people.

There is a saying that in Christ's love, "everyone is someone."

In Bangladesh there are over 70 million "everyones" who have not yet heard that Jesus Christ of Nazareth loves them enough to make even the hungriest and poorest, "someone."

Our Brethren dollars and prayers help!



# IN MEMORIAM:

## *Dr. John F. Locke*



Dr. John Funk Locke, 72, died Thursday, December 18, 1975 at his home near Maurertown, Virginia. Dr. Locke had been a victim of multiple sclerosis more than 25 years.

He was born July 16, 1903, at Woodstock, Virginia, to the late Thomas Glenn and Turah Funk Locke.

After graduation from Massanutten Academy, he received a bachelor's degree from Ashland College, a master's degree from Boston University, and a bachelor of divinity degree from Yale University.

He received honorary doctoral degrees from Ashland and Bridgewater Colleges.

After being ordained in 1928, Dr. Locke was associate director of the Virginia Council of Churches for several years. He served as pastor of the Mt. Olive Brethren Church at Pineville for 36 years and was pastor of the Bethlehem Brethren Church near Harrisonburg for about 45 years, having served both churches simultaneously.

Dr. Locke wrote a commentary on the International Sunday School lessons for more than forty years. It appeared in the **Daily News-Record** of Harrisonburg along with several other newspapers and as the Application portion of **The Brethren Bible Class Quarterly**.

He served on the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church for many years and held the office of Moderator of the Southeast District Conference of Brethren Churches and as Moderator of the General Conference of the Brethren Church. He also served on the trustee board of Ashland College.

Dr. Locke is survived by his wife, the former Virginia Funkhouser, and one brother, Dr. Louis G. Locke, of Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Funeral services were held at the Maurertown Brethren Church and were conducted by Rev. Kent Bennett and Rev. Paul Dick.

He was laid to rest in the Maurertown Cemetery, Maurertown, Virginia.



## *The Ubiquitous Dr. John F. Locke*

My telephone rang. I answered. Marjorie Bennett (Mrs. Keith Bennett) was on the line. She spoke: "Al, we're passing the word along. Dr. John F. Locke has passed away. Memorial services are Sunday afternoon. . . ."

I thanked her. Promised to do the same. Called Bob Bischoff and Clarence Stewart. Then sat down to think. . . .

"Dr. John F. Locke has graduated into higher service."

Dr. Locke was my pastor. I never knew any other pastor. A rare experience in the Brethren Church. Most pastorates last about three years, or less. Of the twenty-one years that I attended the Mt. Olive Brethren Church (Virginia), Dr. Locke was the sole pastor. I guess all told, he pastored there about thirty-six years.

He did everything possible that a pastor could do to one fellow. That is, he baptized me, married me, and ordained me. Is there anything else? Sure . . . much more.

He was a Rock of Gibraltar for me in my formative years. An anchor. In the Valley of Virginia John Locke was ubiquitous—known by all! He moved steadily throughout the Valley for nearly forty years as a pastor. The **Daily News Record** of Harrisonburg, Va., always carried his weekly Sunday School exposition. He was revered by everyone, and especially noted for his humor and oratorical abilities. I guess he was the nearest thing to a Bishop that the Brethren Church ever had.

I can remember Dr. Locke's preaching. If you never heard him when he was younger, and not ill, you missed something. As a young man I was privileged, by Providence, to sit at his feet. His oratory was tops. Inspirational, humorous, devotional, and down to earth.

He was at his best in giving outside addresses. And very much in demand as a Commencement speaker. I once heard him give a Commencement Address at my local high school. As usual, he excelled. In the pulpit, or behind a rostrum, he stood ten feet tall. Worth emulating.

I could never shake the man. Sometimes I tried. When I graduated from Bridgewater College—there was John Locke. I received my bachelor degree, and John Locke received another honorary doctorate. We graduated together! It wasn't hard to see, that somehow the Lord was using this man to mold my life. Would we all were so lucky!

Dr. Locke was always encouraging me. I think he considered me his Timothy. Once on a visit he gave me an autographed copy of Carl Henry's **Christian Personal Ethics**. I treasure it in my library.

A few months ago I sent Dr. Locke an autographed copy of my book—**Blue Jeans Theology**. He sent back a short letter with his usual words of encouragement. He also expressed concern over his health problems, and that he was "ready to go."

Well . . . now he's gone. Or has he? I'm sure, Dr. John F. Locke lives on.

Alvin Shifflett

## *Dedicated, Determined, Devoted*

These are but a very few of the characteristics which could be selected from a list of many, many similar ones to describe Dr. John F. Locke.

From an acquaintanceship that ranged from casual as a fellow delegate attending General Conference to one which became close and personal through the relationship of editor and writer is a most memorable experience for me.

Without question, it must be considered one of my richest blessings to have had the privilege to correspond with and visit with Dr. Locke personally in his home nestled in the Shenandoah valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Having personally observed the determined and Herculean effort to type the lesson manuscripts and proclaim the Word of God from the pulpit demonstrated to this writer an example of dedication to a calling that has been emulated by very few persons.

I humbly desire along with many others to pay tribute to a man who in so many ways unbeknownst to him had been a source of inspiration, comfort and encouragement, especially at times when these morale lifters were sorely needed. I believe I can speak for others also in that a personal visit to the home of Dr. Locke and his lovely wife, Virginia always provided something to make one's outlook on life take on a new, fresh, and delightful perspective.

George Schuster, Editor



## *Our Friend . . .*

### *John Locke*

How I wish I could adequately portray the man who was John Locke! In one sentence I would describe him as an intellectual and spiritual giant with great humility. However, most of the readers of these pages have at some time met and known this gracious spirit; hence any additional remarks will reveal my personal feelings and observations.

My first encounter with him came when I was a freshman at Ashland College. The young man who was later to become my husband was a sophomore, and John was a junior. We looked up to John as an ideal, academically, athletically—he played football—and spiritually.

Gleefully I recollect John serving as critic of our literary society (the Philomatheans). Generally, one does not enjoy criticism; but with John in the critic's chair, the experience was a delight. Although he may have made a suggestion or two for improvement in our efforts, he never failed to find something in our offerings worthy of commendation; and all his comments were couched in terms of rollicking humor. We were honored to receive his attention.

Another very pleasant association with this fine person came as he served for many years on the Missionary Board—for quite some time as vice president—when I was administrative assistant. His observations and comments always revealed wisdom and insight. Occasionally, when differences of opinion among members occurred and a bit of tension developed, John, without fail, came up with some sound thinking which drew opposing views together, and it was done in a manner that unfailingly left all parties in a friendly mood.

Also, I remember John as an Ashland College trustee, in which capacity he served for many years, making valuable contributions to his alma mater in his own inimitable manner. As one of its illustrious alumni he received an honorary doctorate, of which he was highly deserving. Even additional honors were offered him, had he been available to accept them.

Some of my most delightful recollections of John are of the times he spent in our home. For some years, he and his wife stayed with us during General Conference week,

making this an occasion to which we looked forward the other fifty-one weeks of the year. After the evening sessions, our discussions, which often ran late into the night, included varied subjects from politics to heart-searching spiritual explorations. We had great respect for his opinions. To our children he was a sort of all-wise, benevolent uncle. In fact, even today, on many subjects, he is quoted more frequently or as a greater authority than Plato or Shakespeare.

Certainly the wisest thing John ever did was to marry his lovely wife, Virginia, whose devotion to her Lord and to John has been an inspiration to all of us. But at this point, suffice it to say that she was my ideal. She and John have complemented one another beautifully.

One should not fail to mention John's long, dedicated service to the Bethlehem and Mt. Olive churches in a period spanning more than four decades. These people will attest to the blessings from his ministry.

Many will recall that John served the entire denomination in numerous ways: as General Conference moderator—even as statistician, at one time; in fact, one delegate was heard to remark that John was the only person who could make statistical reports entertaining. And he did just that!

Another of the fine services for which this great scholar will be remembered is his writing—which he did for many years—of the notes for our Brethren Sunday school quarterlies. So penetrating and with such understanding were his Biblical explorations that they were published in several newspapers. Also, some churches of other denominations bought Brethren quarterlies for their church schools because of their splendid scriptural exegesis.

So one might go on at great length reviewing the contributions this great and humble man made to his church, but mere words will not fill the void his departure has made. We shall certainly miss him; however those of us who have known him are truly grateful for our association with one of God's nobility.

Thank you, JOHN LOCKE, for the blessings you have brought into our lives.

Mrs. Leslie (Ida) Lindower



## *A Tribute*

The date of December 18, 1975 marks the homegoing of a dear saint of God. Dr. John Funk Locke was well known throughout our brotherhood having served in the Gospel ministry and written Sunday School lesson commentaries for more than forty years. His writings also appeared weekly in several area newspapers of his native Maurertown, Virginia.

Over the years he was an active leader in the Brethren Church, functioning as Moderator of the National Brethren Conference and of the Southeastern District of Brethren Churches. He served for many years on the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church and was a trustee of Ashland College.

Dr. Locke was also the active pastor of the Bethlehem and Mt. Olive Brethren Churches for nearly forty years. It must also be mentioned that his service and influence reached out beyond his own denomination, for his friendships, activities and writings contributed considerably to the Christian church at large.

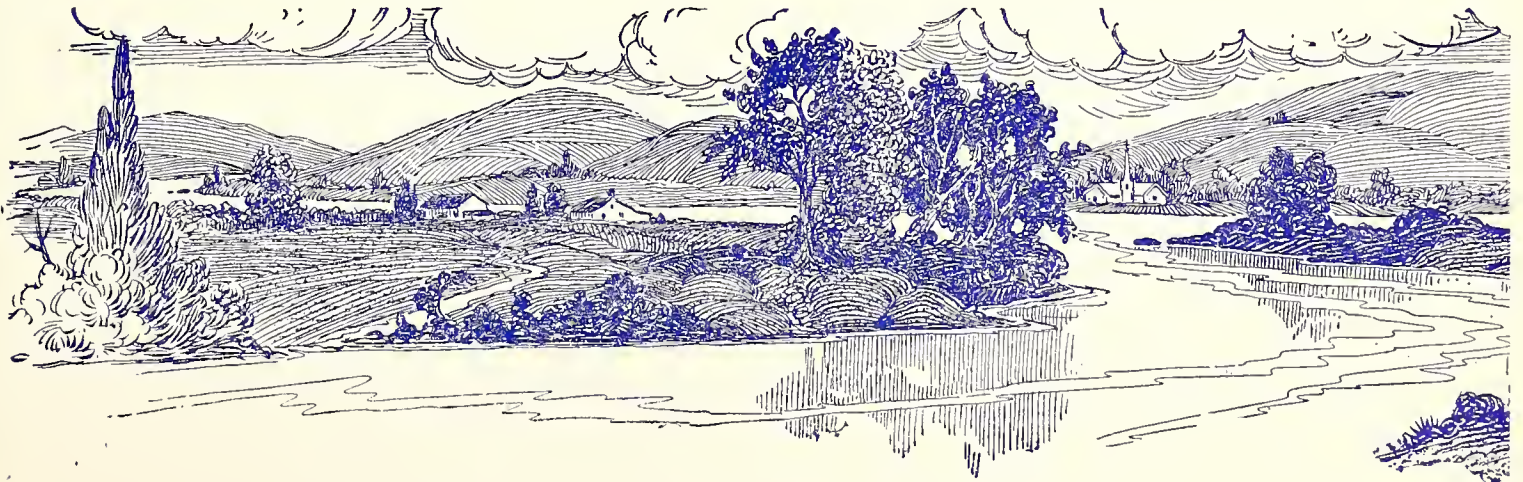
When we think of our beloved Dr. Locke, several special qualities stand out in our memory. First, is his great-heartedness which encompassed the whole of humanity.

His warmth and compassion endeared him to all who had the privilege of knowing him. Again he was a man of great intellect. His was a keen, incisive mind, able to wrestle with deep truths, to sort out and grasp the essentials of greatest importance and to share them with others. These qualities, combined with a subtle, delightful wit, endeared him to his friends, audiences and readers everywhere.

Perhaps the greatest impact of his life and ministry over these last twenty-five years was his disciplined ministries which were carried on in spite of his sufferings from multiple sclerosis. His message of hope and peace in the Lord Jesus Christ were enhanced by coming, as it were, through the veil of disability and suffering. And as we think of him, we include his devoted wife, Virginia Funkhouser Locke, who labored so graciously with him, overcoming together in the service of the Lord.

We thank God for the life and witness of Dr. John Funk Locke. May the influence and inspiration of his life continue to live on in the lives of all of us who hold him so dear in our hearts.

M. Virgil Ingraham





# MISSIONARY NEWS



## IN MEMORIAM: *Miss Veda Liskey*

In 1948, in cooperation with The Church of the Brethren, our first missionary was sent overseas in the person of Miss Veda Liskey. She began her work in Garkida, Africa working with Dr. Howard Bosler as he treated the lepers. For nine years her effort resulted in bringing healing to many sick bodies and salvation to lost souls.

Veda, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Liskey, was born and reared in a Christian home in Rockingham County, Virginia. Much training and experience was added to this greatest benefit of a Christian home. She completed three years at Madison College in Harrisonburg, Virginia and later taught for six years in the elementary schools of Rockingham County. In fulfillment of an earlier desire, Miss Liskey came to Ashland College to complete her training in the academic field and to receive her degree. After earning her Bachelor of Science degree, she took nurses' training at the Medical College of Virginia School of Nursing, receiving her R.N. in 1947. A year at Bethany Biblical Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, where she studied mission work specifically, completed her formal education; however, many of her activities throughout her entire life fitted her further for her special calling.

From early childhood Veda attended and took part in Christian Endeavor and the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha; she taught Sunday School classes and helped in Brethren young people's camps. As a young girl she became a member of the Bethlehem Brethren Church, near Harrisonburg, Virginia. Here, Reverend John Locke, her pastor, encouraged her and counselled her in her desire to do Christian work. She volunteered for life work at the district conference at Mathias, West Virginia after an appeal by J. Ray Klingensmith.

Veda's first furlough to the States in 1951 was spent in considerable visitation among the churches, showing pictures and speaking in behalf of her beloved work. In July 1952, she was flown back to Nigeria to replace a returning missionary. She first assumed the principalship of an African



school of about 200 children at Marama; then she resumed her chosen work—that of nursing in the hospital at Marama. She spent considerable time in study to learn the Bura language and continued to work among the African people until December of 1958.

Veda loved Africa and even more—the people. She never felt that it was a sacrifice to serve in her task but that it was a great privilege to serve the Lord. In late 1973 she again visited her second home with a Study Tour directed by Church of the Brethren as a part of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration of the Brethren work in Nigeria.

When she returned to the States in 1958 due to health, she continued to serve in her community. She has been a nursing instructor for the past 16 years, served as President of her local Woman's Missionary Society most recently and was a member on the Southeastern District Mission Board for the Brethren Church.

Veda's death in December, 1975 followed hospitalization for eight weeks. A memorial service was held at the Bethlehem Brethren Church December 19th and private burial services with Reverend Edward Schwartz officiating. She is survived by her mother residing in a rest home and two sisters.



# Regional Convention

by Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar

1975 saw another new addition to the work in our Brethren Mission in India. In the month of September, we organized a Regional Convention in the Godavari Delta region at Kothapeta village. The convention was scheduled to be on the 13th and 14th on a Saturday and Sunday. We planned the convention in that particular region as those areas are known for anti-Christian activities. Depending on the Lord we made all the arrangements with great care. This being the monsoon season, it rained for several days in the Godavari Delta area. It was a miracle that the Lord held the rains back for us at that time. Though it rained all around Kothapeta village, there was not even a drop of rain in the village during the days of our convention. The Lord was praised for His wonderful protection of His children. There were about 400 people that attended the convention. Several high caste Hindus heard the Gospel at that time. Twelve people gave their lives to Christ and came forward for baptism. They were baptized in the local Godavari canal.

We started the convention on Saturday night and closed it on Sunday night after the meeting. Our Brethren preachers T. Raja Rao, B. G. R. Moses, B. B. Israel, K. Agamana Rao, P. Sudarshana Rao, preached the Gospel along with me. Nirmala spoke to the women. Eighteen of our Brethren Mission preachers attended the convention.

## Evangelism Day

We set apart Saturday, September 13 as 'Evangelism Day' for the Rajahmundry Area of the Brethren Mission. Some of us were engaged in evangelizing the Godavari Delta Region while as other preachers were busy proclaiming the Gospel in new villages where they had never

preached before. They visited homes and witnessed Christ by personal evangelism. The following is the report of our activities.

New villages reached	21
Homes visited with prayer	207
Booklets distributed	8,000
Holy Bibles distributed	3
New Testaments distributed	16
Sick people anointed	45

Ed. Note—Preachers mentioned as participating in the convention services include three evangelists presently supported plus one man previously supported by the deceased James M. Brown

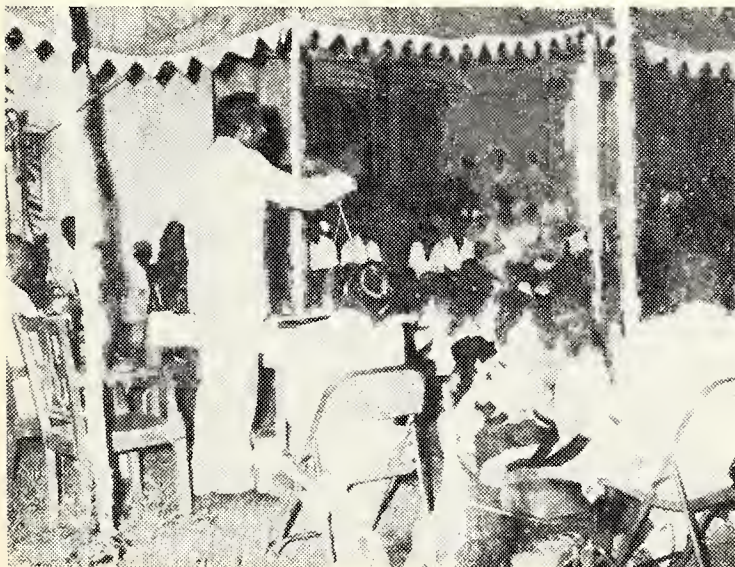
T. Raja Rao—Park St. Ashland/Truth Seeker's Class

K. Agamana Rao—W.M.S. - Vinco Church

B. B. Israel—W.M.S. - Mexico Church



*Twelve people received baptism at Kothapeta Convention.*



*A scene showing K. Prasantha Kumar with some of the 400 people who attended the convention.*

## Appeals Not Endorsed

Recently letters from India have been directed to some of our pastors and lay people requesting funds to support certain ministries being carried on in India. We caution our Brethren people from being victimized by these unauthorized appeals from individuals about whom nothing is presently known, either as to their work or the legitimacy of their appeal. The source for gaining these addresses for corresponding to people in the States is unknown at the present time, although Reverend Kumar is investigating to see where they might have been obtained.

Do not respond to these appeals! They neither have the endorsement of our National Director of Brethren Missions, K. Prasantha Kumar, nor our Missionary Board office. By mutual agree-



ment between the Missionary Board and the Brethren Mission in India all appeals and funds are to be sent to India through the Missionary Board through its regular international transmittal channels.

Copies of all letters received by Brethren and shared with the Missionary Board have been sent to Prasantha Kumar for his attention. If our Brethren Missions in India can or has been working in these areas, then the work will be supported through our regular budget support for outreach in India. You have no way of knowing that any funds sent directly to any individual are being used for Gospel outreach and in addition there is little chance your personal checks will arrive at destination. If you have received any such appeals, we would appreciate hearing from you.

The second was a report:  
To help **Susan** appreciate the accessibility of the Bible we enjoy today, we assigned her the task of reading the comic book, "The Story of THE OPEN BIBLE." (by Seth Harmon; Standard Publishing Company).  
She then reported to the total group what she learned and drew pictures of several of the historical events she researched. It might become another Brethren House booklet. This is her report:

THE STRUGGLES OF THE BIBLE

In Rome

"Most churches in Rome had Bibles that were read and studied by the people. But a few centuries later the Roman Catholic church didn't let the people read the Bible. Priests told the people what to believe because they thought if people read the Bible they might question the church's beliefs.

In England

"For 600 years the Bible was locked and closed to the English people. They knew only what their ministers wanted them to know.  
"Later: Every Bible had to be written by hand. It took a year for each book. There were so few Bibles and so many people wanted to read and learn the Bible.

The Battle for the Open Bible

"John Huss worked for the Open Bible at Prague University. Huss was tried as a heretic and burned at the stake. Other martyrs for the Open Bible were included.

"Driven out of England William Tyndale translated the Bible in Germany. The church spies tried to stop him.

"Cardinal Wolsey ordered all Bibles printed in England destroyed. At night Tyndale's New Testaments were smuggled into England. Priests bought these Bibles and burned them in the streets.

"About 1530 King Henry broke away from the Roman Catholic church. Henry permitted a man named Coverdale to publish his translation of the Bible.

"From 1553 to 1558 Bloody Mary was England's Catholic Queen. Many Protestant martyrs died. But even Mary could not keep the Bible from the people. Many people went to other countries.

"Luther was tried in front of a church court for what he said about the Roman Church. He was hidden in the German Wartenburg Castle. Here he did much translating and writing. In 1522 his German translation of the New Testament was finished. Ten years later he finished the whole Bible.

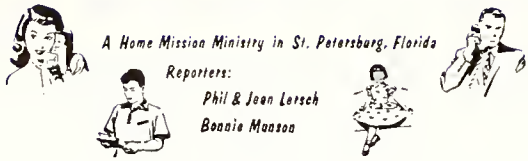
1611—This is the Year to Remember

"In 1611 King James Version was finished. King James called together 54 learned scholars, and they worked 6 years on the new translation.

"Until the Revolution, America's Bibles came from England. The Revolution left America very short of Bibles.

"In 1782 Robert Aiken printed America's first Bible in English."

BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



Tailor-made

On Sunday mornings at Brethren House we try to tailor the learning tasks to fit the needs and abilities of individual children. The more we learn about learning, the more we realize this "tailoring" is a prerequisite for nurturing growth.

Another catalyst for learning is allowing children to be actively involved in a process . . . rather than expecting their passive receptivity to our telling.

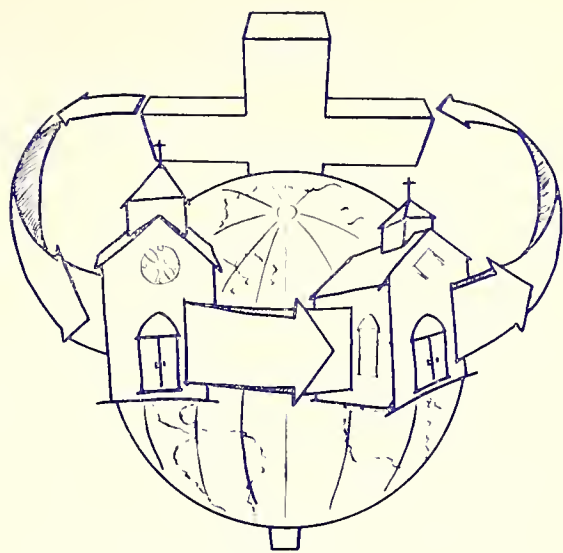
Recent assignments given to two of our older learners brought the following results:

The first is a paraphrase. To get **Stephanie** involved in reading and reflecting on Scripture we asked her to read PSALM 139:1-6 in a couple of different versions and write it in her own words. Stephanie is a very alert 5th grader. Here is her paraphrase:

- 1. Lord, you have looked over me, and you know me.
- 2. You know everything I do, from miles away you know all my thoughts.
- 3. You see me, even if I am working or resting, you know everything I do.
- 4. Even before I say anything, you already know what I am going to say.
- 5. You are all around me, on every side of me, you help me with your power when I am in danger.
- 6. What you know about me is too hard for me to understand.



# Church Growth Forum



A forum encourages open discussion of ideas and is a place where stimulating ideas are freely exchanged. In years gone by—in ancient Rome—the forum was the marketplace. There the people of the city and the surrounding countryside came together to conduct their business. As they congregated they began to share their ideas and to interact together, thus refining their ideas.

As more and more of our churches become actively involved in church growth, we can minister to each other by sharing what God is doing in our individual situations for the growth of His Church. Through this constructive sharing we can fulfill the admonition of the writer of Hebrews to “stimulate one another to love and good works” (Heb. 10:24). Through the active sharing of positive growth ideas and possibilities, a cross-pollination will take place which will be fruitful for us all.

Therefore, we are asking that you share with the brotherhood by writing to us about your aspirations and your work for church growth. Rev. Arden E. Gilmer will serve as the editor for the **Church Growth Forum**, so send your reports to him at 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

What should you write about? Tell us about the **growth goals** you have set for your church in 1976 and for the next five years. Then tell us how your church, as the instrument of the living Christ, is **planning** to achieve your faith goals for growth. What **strategies** are you implementing to reach people for Jesus Christ? What ministry is God using and blessing for the growth of your church?

What group in your church is **praying** for growth, **planning** for growth, **working** for growth? Do you have a Church Growth Task Force? If so, tell us what it has done to set the pace for growth in your church.

What are you doing to create an **attitude** for growth in your church? How are you discovering responsive people? What methods are you using to discover the **needs** of your community, and

how are you structuring your program and ministry to **meet** those **needs**? What methods of direct evangelism are you using? How are you training Class II leaders?

These are some of the questions you could answer in sharing your growth ideas. The list, of course, is only a sample of the many areas you could cover in sharing with us.

**Church Growth Forum**, as a regular feature of the **Brethren Evangelist**, will also keep you informed about our denominational Church Growth Program with reports from the various church growth seminars as they are conducted. We will also share church growth thinking with you and expand on some of the various insights which church growth thinging has discovered.

God is pleased with fruitfulness. His goal is that His disciples **bear much fruit** (John 15:5). The fruitful church is a joyful church (John 15:11). A fruitful Christian is a joyful Christian (John 15:11). Share with us your joys as a growing congregation. Share with us how you are working together with God for the growth of His Church and your church (I Corinthians 3:6-9).

## UPDATE

In January **Church Growth Seminar One** was conducted in three locations: at Manteca, for the Northern California District; at Walcrest Brethren Church, Mansfield, Ohio; and at New Lebanon, Ohio, with four Miami Valley churches participating (New Lebanon, Gratis, Eldorado, and West Alexandria).

February will see **Church Growth Seminar One** being conducted at Tucson, Arizona, with Rev. George Solomon as resource leader. **Church Growth Seminar One** will be combined with an **Advanced Church Growth Seminar** for the Southeastern District at Hagerstown on February 27-28 with Dr. Fred Burkey, Rev. Arden E. Gilmer, and Rev. Marlin McCann as resource leaders.

**Church Growth Seminar One** is a valuable growth resource. You can schedule one for your church by contacting Arden E. Gilmer.



# news ... from the Brethren

On Sunday morning, December 7, the Massillon Brethren Church praised God, rejoiced, and celebrated because a goal set in October 1964 had been reached. In July we made the last payment on a \$20,000 loan from the Brethren Home Mission Revolving Fund.

For this special day our speaker was Rev. Arden Gilmer, Director of Evangelism/Church Growth of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church. John Rowsey was with us representing the Ohio District Mission Board and the Brethren Publishing Company.

Moderator Bill Bowers read the note and made comments about the significance of the event. Bill Welsch and Bruce Tilley, two of the trustees who signed the note on behalf of the congregation in 1964, burned the note as the congregation sang the Doxology. The pastor led the congregation in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. The service was closed by singing the chorus, "Let's Just Praise the Lord." Following the service a carry-in-meal was enjoyed by all.

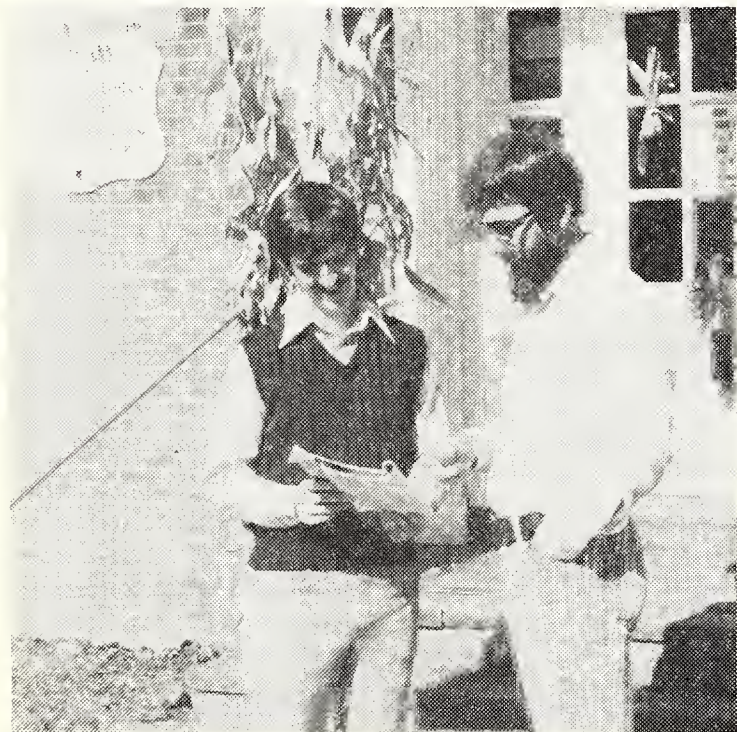
We, the Massillon congregation, take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us in any way throughout the years and ask you to continue praying that we may effectively carry out the ministry God has given us.

—Ronald L. Waters, Pastor

## MASSILLON CHURCH BURNS NOTE



*Bill Bowers, Bruce Tilley, and Bill Welsch burn Massillon note.*



*Bookstore manager Dan DeVeney and Don Snell, campus ministry coordinator, discuss plans for film.*

## Now That's Team Work

On the evening of December 3, the Brethren Bookstore and the Ashland College Christian Campus Ministry co-sponsored a film "What's Up Josh". The theme revolves around a modern college campus where a guest speaker, Josh McDowell, challenges young people to consider what the verdict will be for the rest of their lives.

Josh McDowell has authored an excellent book entitled **Evidence That Demands A Verdict**. His crusade is aimed mainly at college campuses.

Sixty-two people attended the free film and several people indicated they were interested in talking with Don Snell about becoming a Christian.

The film was advertised as a FREEBEE. It was free to the public, but not so free to the bookstore and the campus ministry. At this point any money spent by either organization is critical, but we agreed if the film would make a positive difference in only one life it would be well worth the expense.

We intend to continue in the spirit of team work wherever possible and look forward to the next time a report can be made.



## LOAN GRANTED; CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

On December 30, the Brethren Publishing Company was granted a loan for construction of a new bookstore in Ashland. The new facility, to be erected on Claremont Avenue, will provide a display area twice as large as that in the present store.

Demolition at the site began in mid-January. Dan DeVeney, bookstore manager, hopes to occupy the new store by June 1. The Grand Opening will coincide with the General Conference Bicentennial celebration in August.

The present bookstore on College Avenue will be remodeled for denominational offices.

## Information Needed

Do you have friends or relatives in the **Denver/Northern Colorado** area who might be receptive to the Gospel and to the start of a new Brethren church?

Larry Baker, pastor of the Cheyenne, Wyoming, Brethren Church, and the Missionary Board are studying this area as a possible site for a new congregation.

At the present they are looking for contacts—relocated Brethren or other Christians who might be helpful in church planting and non-Christians who might be open to the message of Christ.

If you know individuals or families in Denver or Northern Colorado, do your part in assisting church growth in the Rocky Mountains. Send names and addresses to one of the following addresses:

Rev. Larry Baker  
Cheyenne Brethren Church  
2600 East 12th Street  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Rev. Arden Gilmer  
Missionary Board  
530 College Avenue  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

## Goldenaires

**MR. & MRS. RUSSELL KUNS** of Flora, Indiana, celebrated their 59th anniversary on January 16, 1976. Both are leaders in the First Brethren Church of Flora.

**MR. & MRS. C. F. HOWARD** of Armagh, Pennsylvania, celebrated their 50th anniversary on November 26, 1975. They are active members of Johnstown Third Brethren Church.

**MR. & MRS. JAMES X. EVANS** celebrated their 50th anniversary on December 16, 1975. Mr. & Mrs. Evans are also active members of Third Brethren Church, Johnstown.

## Weddings

**MILLER-DEARDURFF**—Paula Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Miller of Doylestown, Ohio, was wed to J. Paul Deardurff on December 27, 1975. Mr. Deardurff is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Deardurff of Bellefontaine, Ohio, and he grew up in the Gretna Brethren Church. The newlyweds are both graduates of Ashland College and are residing in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where they are involved in a tentmaking ministry with the Cheyenne Brethren Church.

## Memorials

**ELMER S. BAKER**, long-time member of Johnstown Third Brethren Church, passed away on December 21, 1975. He is survived by his wife, the former Jemima Clark; a son, Richard G.; and a daughter, Sarah Jane Goodlin. Memorial services were conducted by Rev. James Donahoo.

**HENRY CAREY**, 93, went to be with the Lord on October 9, 1975. He is survived by three sons, Lee, Ben, and Arthur. Mr. Carey was a member of the Pleasant Hill First Brethren Church prior to his death, and he had been a charter member of the Sarasota Brethren Church.

**D. ELMER CRIPE**, 90, of Flora, Indiana, died on December 21, 1975. He was a member of the First Brethren Church in Flora where he had been a teacher, trustee, and moderator. Mr. Cripe is survived by his wife, the former Hazel Sieber; two daughters, Mrs. Lester (Jean) Guyer and Mrs. Wayne (Lois) Crook; and a son, Robert. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Myron Dodds, Rev. Samuel Keller, and Rev. Bert Hodge.

**MRS. GEORGE E. (ADA GARBER) DRUSHAL** passed away late in December, 1975. Mrs. Drushal, along with her husband, founded the mission work in Lost Creek, Kentucky, in 1905. She is survived by a daughter, Ada; and a son, J. Garber.

**MRS. MARGARET RHODES**, 73, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, died on December 27, 1975. She was a long-time member of Third Brethren Church. She is survived by two daughters, Virginia Williams and Jean Wallak; three sons, William, James, and Rev. Donald Rowser; and eight stepchildren. Memorial services were under the direction of Rev. Bernard Fuska of Johnstown.

**REGINA ROWSEY**, 43, went to be with the Lord on December 30, 1975. Mrs. Rowsey had been a missionary to Argentina for 12 years before returning to Ashland, Ohio, in 1970. She is survived by her husband, John, Executive Director of the Brethren Publishing Company; two daughters, Susan and Valerie; and a son, Phil. Rev. Eugene Beekley and Rev. Juan Acuna conducted a memorial service at the Park Street Brethren Church.

# The Brethren Layman

## The Laymen's Meeting

by J. Perry Deeter

*Laymen's Inspirational—March*

### "I RECLINE"

Several years ago, my wife and I were on the staff at Camp Bethany during the week of senior camp. One of the activities of the week was the forming of a local church congregational organization. This included the election of Church and Sunday School officers, committees, and so forth.

During the nominations for a particular office, one young man who was nominated responded, "I recline." After the laughter subsided, some one corrected him, saying, "you mean you decline."

I have thought about this many times since then. Why did this young man turn down the nomination? No doubt he had heard the response, "I decline," many times back home in his own church's business meeting. He just got his words mixed up a little when he responded, "I recline."

On the other hand, maybe some people really mean that they wish to **recline** rather than **decline** when they respond to a nomination for an office. The dictionary defines recline this way: to lean back; lie down. Possibly some of these people who are always turning down jobs in the church would rather "lean back" or just plain "lie down." In other words, they don't want to put forth the effort that it would take to do the job that they are asked to do.

There are many different tasks that need to be taken care of in any organization. This includes the church. If too many people **decline** or **recline**, this puts a burden on a small group of people who **are** willing to work. Many times, this small group has to take care of so much of the work that they are overburdened and can't do their best in any one task.

No one in the church can truthfully say that there is nothing that they are capable of doing to further the Lord's work in the church. There are many different tasks to be performed, and every person can find at least one which he or she is able to handle. Not everybody has the same talents or abilities. Paul writes about this very subject in I Corinthians 12. Good News For Modern Man renders verses 4-7 as follows: "There

are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but it is the same Lord who is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but it is the same God who gives ability to everyone for all services. Each one is given some proof of the Spirit's presence for the good of all."

Each one of us must try to find out what we can do best for the Lord in our local church. Maybe we don't always know what this might be, but if we always say "I decline" when we are nominated for an office in the church or asked to serve on a committee, how will we ever find out what our capabilities are?

Paul goes on to compare the many different jobs in the church to the different parts of the body. Just as the eyes, ears, nose, hands, and feet are all essential parts of the body, so are all the various tasks in the church essential to the entire church body. There are some parts of the body that are not as glamorous or attractive as others. So, too, there are some jobs in the church that are not as glamorous as others, but they are all necessary.

"Here is a list of some of the parts he has placed in his church, which is his body: apostles, prophets—those who preach God's Word, teachers, those who do miracles, those who have the gift of healing, those who can help others, those who can get others to work together, those who speak in languages they have never learned" (I Cor. 12:28, LB). In this list of parts (or jobs) in the church are some that most of us can not identify with. However, there are many who can teach or even preach God's word. But if our talents do not lie in these areas, we surely can help others. This may not be as glamorous as preaching or teaching, but it is listed as one of the essential parts of the church.

Maybe you can't get up and preach a great sermon, but you can probably serve as an usher, serve on a stewardship or missionary committee,



help in maintaining the church property, or a host of other things that need to be done in the church.

These are just a few illustrations of the many varied opportunities for service that are available in any church. There are many more that you can think of, I am sure. The point is that there is some area in which each member of a church can serve, if he or she will just be willing to serve when called upon. It has been stated that it is not your ability that counts as much as it is your **availability**. How true these words are!

The next time you are asked to serve in some

way in your church, what will your answer be? Will it be "I decline," "I recline," or "Here am I, use me"?

Questions for thought and/or discussion:

1. Why do you think that some people refuse to accept jobs or offices in the church and Sunday School?

2. I believe that we would all agree that there are times when a person is justified in declining a nomination for an office or an appointment to a committee, etc. What are some of the legitimate reasons a person might have?

## SISTERHOOD



### NANCY'S CORNER



Dear Sisters,

I hope you've all had a great celebration of our Lord's birth, and by now are back into the swing of things.

I am a little disappointed with the registrations I have received from your groups. 26 groups registered last year; this year we only have 12 registered, but I still think there are more groups to speak up and make themselves known. So, please, if your group has not sent in a registration, do it right away. Send the name, address, and age of each member, and the name and address of each patroness and officer to me at 227 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

Now I would like to share a passage of scripture with you. I have been sitting here thinking about the new year, and I thought of Psalm 1. That has always been a favorite chapter of mine ever since I learned it in the third grade. The Psalmist is comparing the righteous and the unrighteous. God wants us to be the righteous, doing the things He wants us to do, like meditating on His Word and enjoying it. Enjoy it?? Yes, just like your favorite storybook or novel. By reading it often and trying to understand it, God will bless your reading, and you will enjoy it.

With this meditation on the Word, the Psalmist says we will "be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water." That means we are alive, we're growing, we have our life support system right beside us. We will "yield fruit in season"; that is, to do

**what** we are meant to do **when** we're meant to do it. For you, that might mean sharing Jesus with a friend, or being kind to an enemy, or helping someone who needs you. Whatever your fruit is, it should be produced when it's ready.

The chapter goes on to say that the leaves, or the fruit of this growing tree, will not wither. To me, God is saying that if I keep meditating and growing in Him, then He will help me bear fruit, so it does not die and blow away like the dead fruit of the unrighteous. My work for Him isn't going to be worthless, but prosperous. The Psalmist says that whatever the righteous man does, he will succeed.

That is really uplifting. It makes me want to stay extra close to the Lord and His Word because I know if I do, He will bless my work. We are in the beginning of a new year. Now is the time to begin, or continue, to meditate and delight in the Word of God. Try to be like a growing, fruitful tree, actually producing fruit and not withering away. Remember, when a tree does not have its life-support system, it withers away. If you are not growing, you're dying.

I challenge you to take time, many times during this year, to read Psalm 1 and prosper with the Lord's help.

God bless you as you begin a brand new year of your life.

In Him,  
Nancy Ronk

**Topic: Learning God's Will**

**by Mrs. Pauline Benshoff**

**Opening Meditation:**

I can not think but God must know  
About the things I long for so;  
I know he is so good, so kind  
I cannot think but he will find  
Some way to help, some way to show  
Me to the things I long for so.—

—Droxy Miller

**Leader's Thoughts:** Do you think we can possibly know God's Will? Almost no one doubts that it is God's Will to save us from sin, but many people are reluctant to believe that God is concerned about the details of each person's life. Do you think He cares what you do with your life? Tonight we will explore some thoughts and scriptures to find out God's plan and Will for our lives.

**Hymn:** He Leadeth Me

**Prayer Circle:** (Join hands as you pray. Appoint one person to lead off and another to close the prayer time.)

**First Speaker:** The Bible tells us that we can receive guidance from God for every problem that perplexes us. God led Abraham to a land he knew not. The Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit to solve difficult problems. The promises for guidance are unmistakable. I have some Bible references for you to look up. Who will take Psalms 32: 8; Proverbs 3: 6; Isaiah 58: 11; John 8: 12; I Corinthians 2: 16; Matthew 10: 29; Matthew 10: 30. (After reading these passages, answer, Is God concerned or isn't He?)

**Second Speaker:** Does God have a particular Will for every life? Yes, God has a plan for every life. God's Will for us includes body, health, strength and mind. It includes the whole of life and the world of lives. This is a Will for where I am to be, and what I am to be and what I am to do tomorrow. And yes, every day of my life. Many Christians testify to the fact that they knew they were in God's Will by the way He directed their lives. But these folks sought the leading of the Holy Spirit which one must do to receive that direction.

**Third Speaker:** How then do we learn God's Will for our lives? (Hand out the following ways to learn God's Will.)

1. **Our motives must be pure.** (Luke 11: 34)  
There can be no thought of personal gain or praise, only glory to God and a desire to please Him (James 4: 3).
2. **Our will must be surrendered to Him.** (John 7: 17)  
Let Him be Lord, controller of your life, willing to do His Will. If we have already made our own plans and only want His blessings on what we want, we can't be in His Will, only our own.

3. **We must study God's Word.** (II Timothy 2: 15)  
No wise person goes on a long journey that he never took before without a map, so on life's journey we need our guide-book (The Bible) to get a broad sweep of God's thought, to breathe Him in as He reveals Himself to us through study and prayer.
4. **We must pray for guidance.** (Romans 8: 26, 27)  
The Holy Spirit can teach us how to pray in a manner acceptable to God.
5. **We must keep informed.** We should not continually ask our friends the answers but rather search the scriptures. This is the only information that is reliable. The Holy Spirit can lead you into truth if you ask for his leading. God's voice may come to us in just common sense ways to help us. (Matthew 21: 22)
6. **Be patient and wait for God's plan to unfold itself.** Sometimes circumstances in our daily living indicate God is there directing, leading, protecting us. We get fresh ideas put into our minds by God. God has promised to guide the steps of a righteous man (or person). Feel confident that when God has something for you to do He'll find a way to let you know it. So be constantly attuned to His leading.

**Fourth Speaker:** Is it safe to follow God's leading? You might think many people do not trust God too far, for they say 'no' many times fearing God may ask too much of them, or ask something they feel they cannot do. But we can always trust God. He won't ask more of us than He will supply the know-how and strength to get it done. (Psalms 29: 11; Philippians 4: 13)

**Leader:** To be in God's Will and to please Him with our lives we learn that our motives must be pure, that we allow God to be Lord of our life, that we study the Bible, and pray for guidance so that we are kept informed about what God expects of us and then be patient and wait for God's plan to unfold, always willing to follow His Will for us.

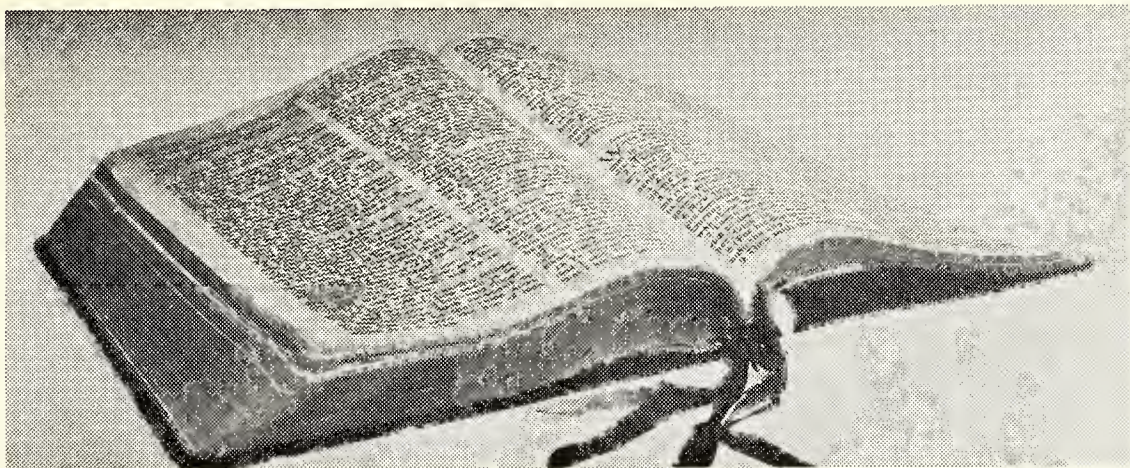
**Closing Hymn:** Trust and Obey

**Business:**

**Benediction:**

**Fellowship and Refreshments:** How about a game while refreshments are being readied? (Leader, appoint someone to make these ahead of time.) Into small bags of any non-see-through material, tie samples of tea, coffee, starch, rice, beans, spices etc. You can think of many others. Pass them around the room. You only get to feel it briefly one time. Write down what you think it is. See who guesses the most correctly.





## Developing Spiritual Gifts—BIBLE STUDY

by Mrs. Ruth Barber

Bible study is such an important part of our spiritual life that its value cannot be overestimated. Yet, most of us never develop a plan for systematic study—we just feel overwhelmed by the vastness of what we **ought** to be doing! During our study today we're going to discuss three ideas briefly: the importance of **regular** Bible study, several plans for Bible study, and finally, we'll memorize some scripture about the Word.

All of you girls know the importance of eating regular, balanced meals; most of you have three meals a day plus snacks. You know that teenagers who live on "junk" foods or who skip meals or who don't eat fruits and vegetables have health problems ranging from recurring colds to skin diseases to anemia, etc. Yet, few of us realize that God's Word is food for our spiritual lives, and that because we do not "feed" properly we are an easy target for all kinds of spiritual "germs" and ailments. Look up each of the following references. Read each reference aloud to the group; then put it into your own words, and let others in the group add their own comments. Read Matthew 4:4, 5; Psalm 119:103; and I Peter 2:2. I Corinthians and Hebrews both contain references to spiritual "meat," and Job says that he considered words from God better than daily food. Christians feel strongly that when they fast, the time usually given to eating physical food should be given to reading God's Word and prayer. They believe that God's Word not only gives spiritual strength, but also physical strength to do the

work God expects them to do. Certainly, there's much more to be gained from Bible reading than most of us ever suspect! In some respects Bible reading is like taking vitamin pills. Miss one, and your body doesn't seem to notice the difference; skip those pills for a month and you begin to drag! Miss one day of Bible reading and your friends probably won't notice the difference. Miss a month and everyone will know that spiritually, you're "down." On the positive side, read your Bible every day for a month and your friends will also notice a difference. "Sue, you've been such a happy, peaceful, and caring person these past few weeks—what's your secret?" God's Word is food for your soul. You will grow in faith, grow spiritually, in direct proportion to the time you spend in the Word of God.

Here are five more verses to look up. This time don't read the verse out loud. Instead, study the verse and decide what each verse tells about the Scriptures. You should be able to fill in this blank after you read each verse silently: God's Word is \_\_\_\_\_. Now look up I Peter 1:25; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:9; and John 17:17. Share your findings. I'm sure you all discovered that God's Word is enduring, eternal, or everlasting; a sword; quick, powerful, sharper than a sword, and a discerner of thoughts; a cleanser (!); and truth. Now if any company advertised a product on TV that claimed to be a food, a cleanser, a sword, eternal, powerful, truth, and able to discern your thoughts, you



would probably dismiss it with the idea that **nothing** could be that good. Sometimes we act the same way about the Bible—our attitude seems to be, "Not even God's Word can really do everything it claims!" But, girls, it can. God's Word can do **even more** than we've pointed out to you. But just like any other product it has to be used on a regular basis in order to be proven true. Let God's Word have an opportunity to work in your life; taste of it regularly; let God's strength, power, cleansing, and truth flow through you.

Perhaps you've never read God's Word regularly before. Let me make few suggestions. First, never try to read too much at one time—you'll become discouraged and perhaps get spiritual indigestion! On the other hand don't starve yourself either. Six to ten verses a day seems to be a fairly good "meal" for young Christians. Always pray before you read asking the Holy Spirit to help you understand and to guide you into truth. Be consistent—read every day at the same time and in the same place. Follow a plan. Perhaps you'll decide to read straight through one book, such as Mark, or John, or Philippians. Perhaps you'll decide to follow the daily readings suggested by NAE or the American Bible Society. Perhaps you can obtain a listing of verses by sub-

jects, such as love, joy, or salvation; and decide that each day you'll read six verses about a certain topic. The plan itself isn't as important as the fact that **you actually do have a plan**. Otherwise your reading becomes hit and miss and you end up with spiritual malnutrition. It's a good idea to keep track of what you read either by dating the chapters in your Bible as you finish reading them, or circling verses, or using a Bible reading record like the ones published by the American Bible Society.

Let's close this study by spending four or five minutes memorizing two verses of Scripture that teach us a great deal about God's Word. Turn to II Timothy 3:16, 17. Read these two verses in unison two times, saying the reference at the beginning and again at the end. Then spend one minute studying. See how far each of you can go in reciting the verse. What does reproof mean? Now, partner up for the last minute and study it together. Finally, say the verses in unison again. You should have a good start on hiding these two verses in your heart where the Holy Spirit will teach you the meaning and use them to help you grow spiritually. May the Lord bless you richly as you work this month on developing Bible reading into a true spiritual gift.

*You are invited*

**NAE-NRB**

**Joint Convention**

National Association of Evangelicals  
and National Religious Broadcasters

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**Washington, D.C.**

**Feb. 22-25, 1976**

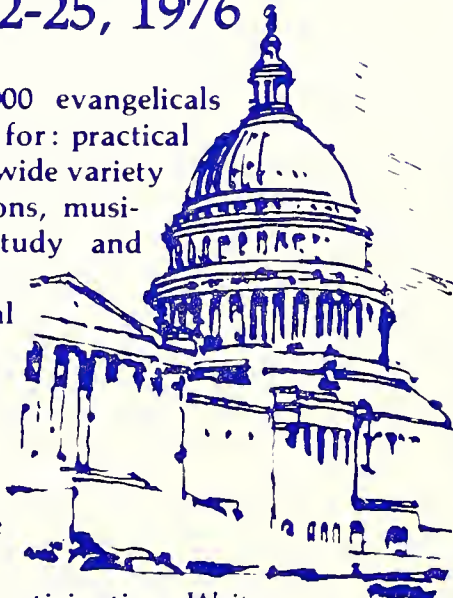
A gathering of 2,000 evangelicals from across the nation for: practical workshop sessions on a wide variety of topics; special luncheons, musical events, times of study and prayer, business sessions, Convention Banquet, and over 200 special exhibits at the NAE/NRB Church and Media Exposition.

**SPEAKERS:** Rep. John B. Conlan, Dr. Billy Graham, Dr. J.H. Jackson, Dr. David McKenna, Dr. Harold Ockenga, Dr. George Sweeting, and Mr. Richard Wiley.

Join us through your prayers and participation. Write:



National Association of Evangelicals Box 28, Wheaton IL 60187





## Developing Spiritual Gifts—WITNESSING

by Mrs. Ruth Barber

Witnessing. What a simple little word—and yet it strikes terror into the hearts of the bravest men (and girls)! What about you? Does this little word “witnessing” make your mouth go dry and your hands sweat and your legs turn to jelly? Most of us accept the fact that the Lord wants us to pray—and lots of times we even actually pray. Few of us would argue the point that the Lord wants us to read His Word. Even though we don’t read the Scriptures as often as we should usually, we don’t get panicky when we decide to actually have our daily Bible-reading time. What then, is the **big** problem when it comes to witnessing. I think there’s two problems that we all have to face—**preparation** and **people**.

Preparation has several aspects. First of all, it involves our own relationship with the Lord. If we have never asked Jesus to be our Savior, then we’re certainly not going to share His love with others. Or, perhaps, we have asked Christ to live in our hearts but he’s not the most important person in our life right now. Perhaps a boyfriend is more important to you than Jesus. Do the boys you date know that you’re a Christian? Do you invite them to church and youth parties? Maybe YOU are the most important person in your life right now. Maybe what YOU want is more important than what God wants! God can only use girls to witness who love Jesus and consider Jesus so important that they want to share His love with their friends. How important is Jesus to **you**? Do you talk to Him every day? Do you worship Him regularly? Are you concerned with Jesus’ opinion about your friends and social activities? Your relationship with Jesus determines how important witnessing is in your life.

The second aspect of preparation involves an understanding of what witnessing really is. All of us have been visited by people who are “witnessing” for some cult or denomination instead of for Jesus. They’ve memorized a set presentation and they’re willing to give it—but problems arise when they’re asked questions. Their own personal experience is shallow—they’ve just “taken the witnessing course.” Peter says in I Peter 3:15 (Living Bible), “Quietly trust yourself to Christ your Lord and if anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way.” Campus Crusade

tells its students that, “Success in witnessing is simply sharing Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.” What has Christ done for you? Has He saved you from eternal life in Hell? Share that. Has He given you peace or joy? Share that. Has He answered a prayer or healed you or given you wisdom to solve a problem? Whatever Christ has done for you, personally, is what you are to share with others. If you want to memorize some Scriptures to illustrate your witnessing, fine. Get busy and memorize. But don’t say, “I can’t witness because I haven’t memorized enough Scripture.” That’s a poor excuse. You witness, share, what Christ has done for you, and God will bless your efforts.

Then there’s people. What people? Why all those people God wants you to witness to. Millions! Wait a minute. Few of us are called to witness to millions—or even hundreds. But God does hold us responsible for sharing with the friends and neighbors that we see and know and have conversation with. When you say to your friend at school, “I can’t come over tonight. My family goes to church on Wednesday nights,” and she says, “Why?” can you tell her? What about that great guy who invites you to the lake for swimming and a picnic—do you have the courage to say, “I’d love to go any other day, but on Sunday I always go to church.” What do you tell him when he says, “Why?” Or if your friend says, “Your folks always seem so understanding. They really love you.” Can you tell them your folks have a deep, deep love for you that comes from Jesus Christ? Remember, Christ said, “Ye shall be witnesses unto me. . .”—He didn’t say we would be **great** witnesses or **successful** witnesses; we’re simply to share what he has done for us in a willing, honest manner. Peter says we’re just to be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks us why we believe as we do. **Don’t worry about the results.** Not everyone the Lord Jesus talked to, accepted His way and became a follower. Paul tells us that he planted, Apollos watered, and **God gave the increase.** Your witnessing is commanded by God, empowered by God through His Holy Spirit, and will be blessed by God Himself. Trust God to bless your efforts and your life as you obey His commands to witness. May the gift of witnessing become an important part of your daily life!

## *Signal Lights Program—March*

### **BIBLE THEME: Serving God**

### **PROJECT: Medical Outreach in India**

Call to Worship: Come, let us listen; let us hear  
Of the One who is always near.  
Let us try wherever we go  
The love of God to others show.

by **ALBERTA HOLSINGER**

### **BIBLE STORY: One Who Said, "Thank You"**

"Help us! Please help us, Jesus!" called ten men.

As Jesus came near to the men He saw they had leprosy. There was no cure for that disease in those days. People who had it lived away from their family and friends. They did not want others to get leprosy, too.

Jesus knew these men wanted to go home again. He knew they were not only sick but unhappy and lonesome, also.

Jesus said to them, "Go to the priest. Show him you are well."

The lepers hurried down the road to the temple to see the priest. As they went they noticed they were healed!

Nine of the men ran even faster. They were anxious to be declared well by the priest. Then they could return to their families.

The tenth man turned around. He hurried back the way they had come. "Glory to God! I'm healed!" he shouted to everyone he met.

Soon he came to Jesus. He knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Thank you! Thank you, Lord, for healing me!"

Jesus smiled at the man. "Ten men were healed," He said. "You are the only one who has come back to say thank you. Now go to the priest and get permission to return to your home. Your faith in God has made you well."

The tenth man hurried on his way. He continued to tell others of Jesus and to thank God for sending Jesus to heal him.

We, too, can serve God by thanking Him for His goodness to us and by telling others of Jesus.

\*Based on Luke 17:11-19

### **MISSION TIME: School in India**

Most of you go to school. What days do you go to school? Do you know what time your school starts? Do you know what time you go home from school? What do you study in school? What do you do at recess? What do you do at lunch time? (Take time for the children to discuss each question.)

Boys and girls in India go to school, too. They enter first grade when they are five years old. They learn to read and write and do math just as you do.

But some things are different. The children have breakfast at 6:00 because school starts at 7:00 in the morning (much earlier than yours!). First graders go home at 11:00 and do not need to go back any more that day.

Beginning in second grade the children return to school at 2:00 in the afternoon and have classes until 4:00.

The Indian children go to school the same days you do and also on Saturday morning.

They do not use writing paper or notebooks in the first three grades. Each child has a small

slate on which he does his math and other written work.

Recess time, too, is different. The children may leave the school yard during the ten minutes of recess.

There are stores close to the school. Some people push carts with homemade candies, pastries, or hot roasted peanuts near to the school. The children go to buy things at these stores or carts during recess.

Some children go home during the long noon period. Some buy their lunch at a nearby restaurant. Some bring their lunch from home and eat it at school. Other children stay at school but do not eat lunch. They have no food at home and no money to buy a lunch.

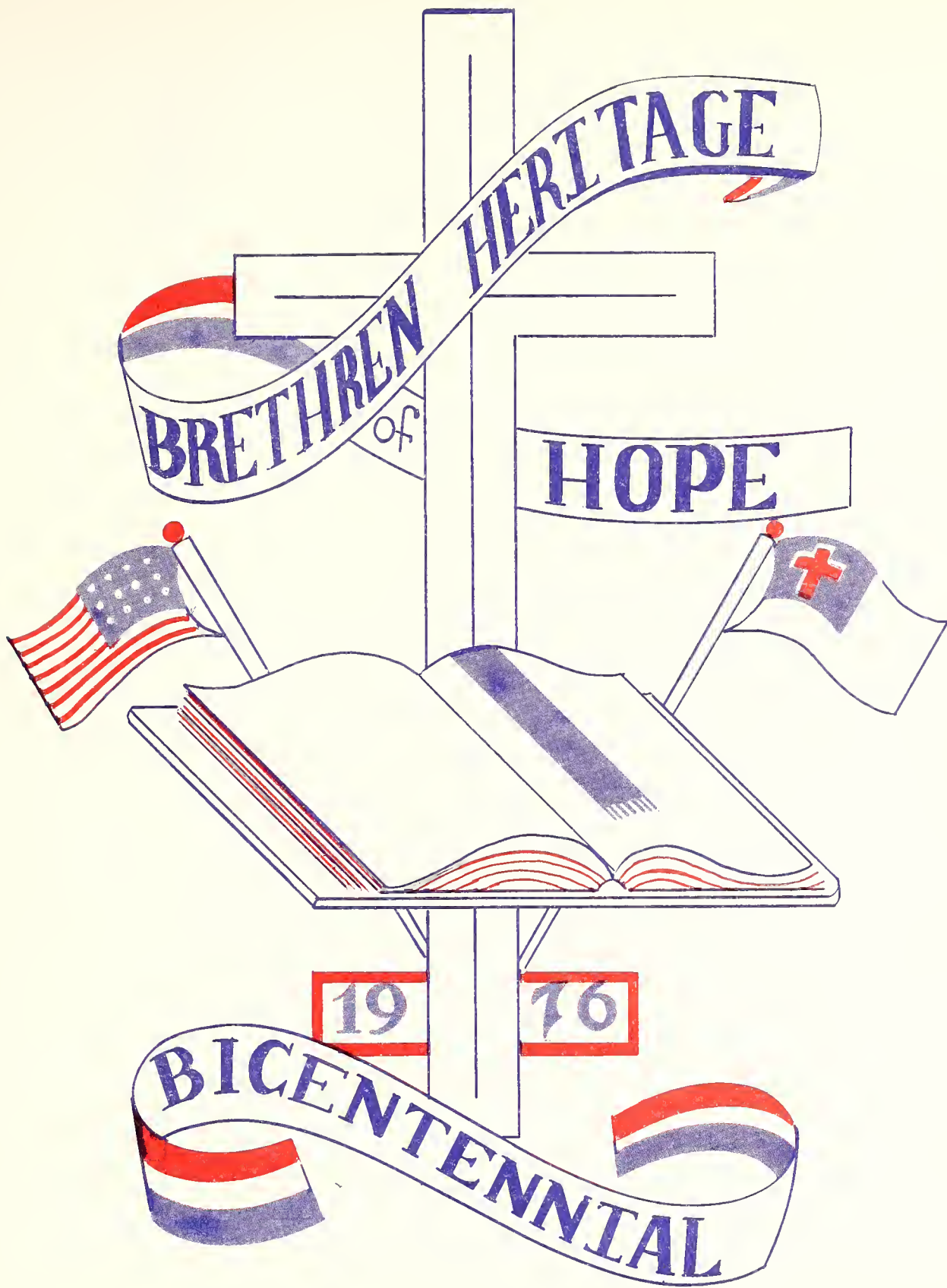
After school the children play and do their homework. They have their evening meal about 7:00 and go to bed at 9:00.

What would you like about going to school in India?

What would you not like about it?

How can we help some of the children of India? (Discuss our project.)





The General Conference Publicity Committee felt that a suitable emblem for our special 1976 Bicentennial celebration was a first order of business after the close of Conference in August, and that the way to secure such an emblem could best be accomplished through a contest.

Many worthwhile designs were received by the committee, making the selection of a winner a difficult one. In the November 29 issue of the *Brethren Evangelist* Mrs. John Vance (nee Marjorie Bumbaugh) of the Warsaw, Indiana, Brethren Church was announced as winner.

Although art and music are both hobbies of Marjorie, she has had training and experience in both of these areas. In addition to being the busy wife of a farmer, mother of five children, and organist for the Warsaw Church, Marjorie also teaches a few voice students and plays the organ for a Claypool funeral home.

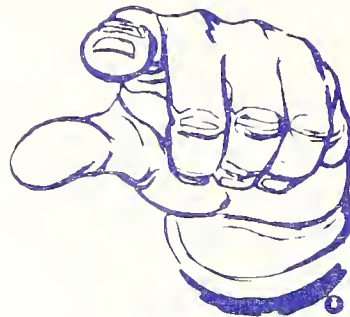
Marjorie tells us that her favorite Bible verse is Phil. 4:13—"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Our heartfelt thanks is also extended to all those who submitted designs. These will be displayed next August at General Conference

Peggy Beekley, Chairman

Brethren Historical Library  
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YOU!**



- To volunteer services in our retirement centers
- To train for positions on our retirement center staffs
- To financially support the program of benevolence in the Brethren Church (\$3 per member/yr.)
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- To live with us in retirement years
- To participate in local church programs for the elderly
- To give Memorial Gifts, will bequests, and deferred giving amounts to The Benevolent Board for its program

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Ashland, Ohio 44805  
(419) 325-3696



# *The Brethren* **EVANGELIST**

Funderburg Library  
Manchester College  
North Manchester, IN 46962

*March 1976*

*Spanning the globe . . .*



*with World Missions*

*(see page 13)*





## "Which One, Angie?"

This young couple is taking advantage of the large selection of Christian recordings at the Brethren Bookstore. He thinks Andrae Crouch is "outasight!" She prefers the young sound of the Good News Circle. Dad and Mom relax to the mellow voices of Love Song and the Gaithers. And Grandpa? He's been a George Bev Shea fan for years.

They've come to the right place. We have records and tapes that will suit any taste in Christian music—from traditional to gospel to contemporary.

And if he doesn't have enough cash for the records he wants to buy, he can use his Master Charge or BankAmericard and get something for the whole family.

Why don't you examine our selection on your next visit to Ashland.



**THE BRETHREN BOOKSTORE**

524 College Ave.

Ashland, Ohio 44805



# The Brethren EVANGELIST

March 1976

Vol. 98

No. 3

## 4 George Schuster

*The EVANGELIST pays tribute to its retiring editor of publications.*

## 8 Ephesus: A Growing Church

*Pastor George W. Solomon defines two growth principles present in this first century church.*

## 11 Progressivism

*As Brethren consider their "heritage of hope," Earl Crissman explains the significance of being a progressive church.*

## 13 Glorify God With What You Have

*Mrs. Delbert Mellinger introduces a special report on Brethren Church involvement in world missions. Other articles in this report are MALAYSIA—NEWEST MISSION FIELD, JOHN GULI—A CONTINUING STORY, PLANNING FOR GROWTH, and MEDICALLY-IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES SERVED.*

## 18 Brethren Missionaries Overseas

*Post this centerspread on your missions bulletin board for ready reference.*

## 6 Christian Education

## 7 Church Growth Forum

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Cover design by Howard Mack

### editors' notes

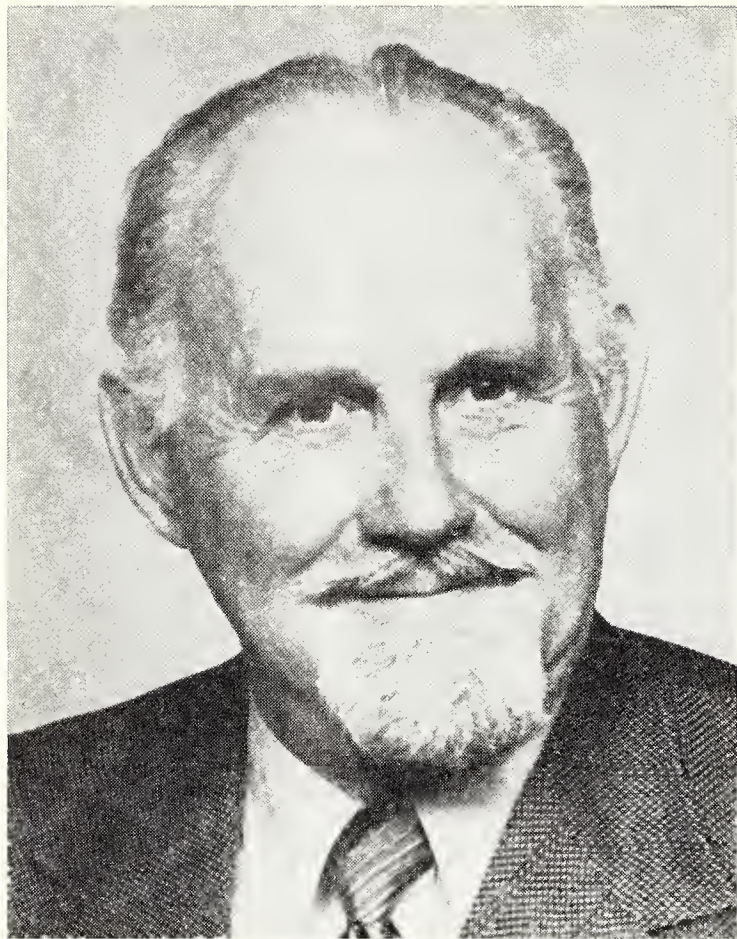
It is my pleasure to greet you for the first time as managing editor of the Brethren Evangelist. The challenge of this task is greater than I could have expected, so I would appreciate your support through prayer.

In the next few issues you will notice a number of changes which we think will make the Evangelist more useful to you as you seek to grow in your faith and in your understanding of the ministries of the Brethren Church.

We on the editorial staff encourage you to send your comments on these changes and suggestions as to subjects you would like to see covered in the Evangelist. We look forward to your letter.

In Him,  
Ron Waters





# George

## A Tribute to G. S.

### Let George Do It

It sometimes seems that every organization has its proverbial "George" who ends up with the responsibilities that no one else wants. The Brethren Publishing Company, in recent years, has had a real-life George. George Schuster was hired in 1970 as Editor and Bookstore Manager. As a firsthand observer I saw many of the extras that became his responsibility as the "man at hand" for persons seeking contact with the Executive Committee or the Board of Directors of the Publishing Company.

Such a position can be very frustrating, and I'm sure George could share some stories. I'm also sure he would be the first to say that it has been a very rewarding experience. As you talk with him about his years with the **Brethren Evangelist** and the Publishing Company, he will begin to tell you of some of the blessings, some of the people he has known, and some of the relationships formed during these years. It is always good to acknowledge how the Lord mixes the blessings with the learning experiences and, through the passing of time, allows only the memories of blessings to remain.

George, may that well-known smile always be on your face. For the members of the Board of Directors and the employees of the Brethren Publishing Company, I wish you well as you move forward in what the Lord has prepared for your future.

—John D. Rowsey, Executive Director  
Brethren Publishing Company

The roar of a big engine was music to his ears as he shifted gears on the long uphill climb. The huge trailer loaded with gasoline to power the nation's automobiles seemed to drag more heavily as the tractor continued to move it along the steep incline toward its destination. Trucking was in his blood. He had responded to "the call of the road" for a good many years.

But in 1970 another call came to this Christian layman. It was the call of God to Christian service. George had often heard God call before and had always been ready to do what the Lord wanted him to do. For years he had served faithfully in the Trinity Brethren Church of Canton, Ohio. His devotion to the Lord as a layman is testified to by the fact that he was entrusted with spiritual leadership in his local church, serving as a deacon. He was also active in district and national church ministries, serving for a time as secretary of the National Laymen's Organization.

When this "new call" came to serve as editor of the **Brethren Evangelist**, it came to a man who had been in touch with his Lord. Through much prayer, he sought to determine the will of God in the matter.

It was not a decision that was easy to make, even after he was satisfied that it was God's will for his life. There was all the seniority he had established with the Standard Oil Company, all the benefits which a man with an excellent record can enjoy, the many retirement benefits that awaited in a few years. And then there was the struggle of leaving what had been his life's work, his home community, and his home church.

It was only at great personal price that George moved into the editor's office at 524 College Avenue in Ashland, "shifting gears" from his familiar truck to an unfamiliar desk, where he has served faithfully his Lord and his church for nearly six years.

In these years I came to know George and his wonderful wife, Ola, through a number of relationships. Besides being a member of the Publishing Board, I have also served as his pastor and at times as his confidant. I cherish this continuing friendship with one of the Brethren Church's fine Christian laymen.

At this time, I do not know what the future holds for George, but I know who holds his future. I am confident that he will continue to serve his Lord in whatever path He leads.

(continued on next page)



# Schuster

*Study to show thyself  
approved unto God,  
a workman that needeth  
not to be ashamed,  
rightly dividing  
the word of truth.*

## Colonel Sanders Retires

"You can't do this to us," I protested, when I learned that George Schuster was retiring as **Brethren Evangelist** editor. But he isn't listening to me.

George's designation as Colonel Sanders by some of his friends is made, not because he serves fried chicken and cole slaw, but by reason of his facial facade which gives him a southern-gentlemanly appearance with a pixielike twinkle in his eye.

When George began editing our church paper a number of years ago I wondered why this type of literary work would appeal to him; but it did, and he has filled the office like a true professional. He has produced an attractive, thought-provoking publication, revealing both literary expertise, a sense of humor, and business acumen. Those who have worked with him have found him to be delightfully friendly and cooperative.

It is with regret that we will see him go; however, as he and Ola return to the Canton area, he will doubtless continue to be a great help in the Brethren Church. Then, whether he goes into some other type of work or retires completely, he will have much to occupy him, for George is proficient in mechanical skills; he is an accomplished musician—plays the violin and organ—and paints very well, as numerous pictures in their home attest. In fact, he is what John Locke used to characterize as "a man of many parts."

Whatever his activities may be, we wish him well. It has been a pleasure knowing and working with him.

To put it briefly, from all of us: May life hold blessings and fulfillment for you, **Colonel Sanders!**

—Ida Lindower

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## A Tribute to G. S. (continued)

I am grateful for the opportunity to commend this Christian friend and brother to the entire church for his dedication, his sacrificial labor, and his contributions to the on-going ministry of the Brethren Church!

—G.S. (George Solomon)\*

\*In addition to other relationships mentioned, both men enjoyed sharing the same initials.—ed. note.

## A Workman That Needs Not Be Ashamed

That is George Schuster.

George came to the Brethren Publishing Company as Editor of Publications and Manager of the Brethren Bookstore in 1970 after many years behind the wheel of a monstrous oil truck. He never ceased in his study to improve in his new calling and to widen the scope of his writing.

George had an active background in church work in the Trinity Brethren Church at Canton, Ohio, and was an enthusiastic member of the Laymen's Organization there, in the Ohio District, and nationally. He will always be remembered for his "Schusterisms" which greeted the men every morning as they gathered for Laymen's sessions at General Conference.

George is a man of many talents, most of them self-taught, and he enjoys them all to the fullest. He is an artist, but modest about his art. He is a violinist who enjoys the strings most with his family. He is an organist who loves to entertain his guests.

But mostly George is a Christian gentleman who desires to serve his Lord in whatever field his God leads him. My association with him has been one of pleasure and satisfaction. He brought the touch of the layman to the evangel of the Brethren, and the Brethren Church has been bettered by his service.

We would wish for George and his wife, Ola, a new found pleasure in serving his Lord and his church in new and challenging areas. We wish him well as he reflects on past years and as he looks to a more fruitful future.

—Elton Whitted

---

*If you would like to send your personal greetings and appreciation to George and Ola, they would be happy to hear from you. Address your correspondence (after March 1) to them at their new address:*

Mr. & Mrs. George Schuster  
804 Werstler Avenue  
North Canton, OH 44720





## MINISTRY TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

by Ken Hunn

Of all the age groupings in our churches, the college age group is probably the most difficult with which to minister. It seems the same question always arises about this group: should they have their own separate group, or should they meet with the adults? I'll be the first to admit that both solutions have their merits. But I believe that most programs or courses should be suited to the individuals with whom you are working.

One of my duties at the Elkhart First Brethren Church is to deal specifically with the college age group. I have found that flexibility is the key in working with this group. Our program for the college agers is flexible to meet the changing needs and desires of these people. Thus, in their meetings I've used everything from Bible learning activities to ringing bells at Christmas for the Salvation Army to having a night for devotions, mixer games, and just plain fellowship in Christ. We try to let this group do what they want in the way of planning, with some adult guidance. They are ready, willing, and able to design for themselves a prescribed course for spiritual growth and fellowship. I've also found that this practical experience in planning and leadership is good training to help fill the leadership roles in our church. I feel that this is what we need **now**, more than ever—sound leadership training to help those persons whom God has called to serve His Church.

I hope you've gained some insight through these few words. The main idea is to help your college agers plan for themselves a program for spiritual growth and service. But the most important advice is found in Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths."

## BOOKS FOR LEADERS

by Donna Simmons

**The Effective Sunday School Superintendent** by Kenneth O. Gangel (Victor Books, 1975, 48 pp., \$.95)

This book is a handbook for leaders, and its purpose is to provide practical guidelines for the superintendent in carrying out his leadership role. The book includes information from a 1974 fall survey of Sunday School superintendents, and some of the findings are enlightening.

The major roles covered include: administrator, recruiter, personnel manager, communicator, planner, and change agent. As you see, the job is endless and diverse. The handbook offers helpful suggestions and even presents common problem areas encountered by Sunday Schools and their leaders.

As leaders we all have special gifts and talents, and we are reminded that we all continue in His fellowship as we put our talents to work for His glory.

I found the book not only a helpful tool for the superintendent but also for all workers and leaders of the church. By reading and understanding the ideas put forth, we can all understand our roles for better service to the Lord.

**How to Plan and Organize Year-Round Bible Ministries**, edited by Margaret M. Self (Regal, 1976, 128 pp., \$2.25)

"Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut" (Revelation 3:8, NASB). What a challenge! How exciting to step forward in faith and accept the challenge. Remember, we are not alone in our task. The Lord is on your side to help (Psalm 118:7).

Are you ready to accept the challenge? We must be! In order for us to prepare ourselves to meet the needs of our church family and community, our work and our lives must be His. New ministries will open and old ones will grow. In searching for a new, effective ministry or improving existing ones, you will find this book to be an essential handbook.

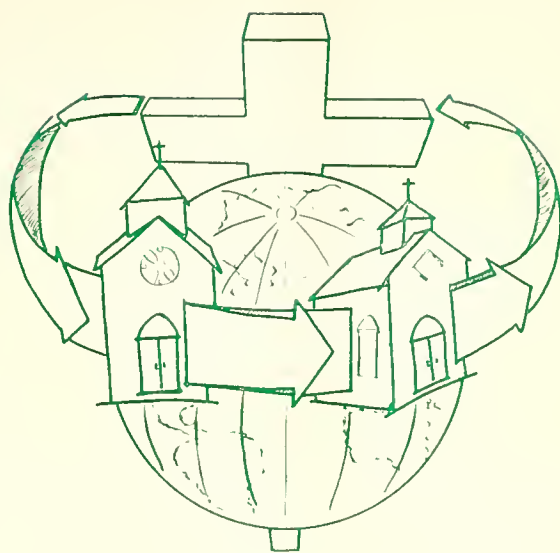
The major divisions of the book include: selecting your Bible ministry, planning and preparing, getting to know the learners, and valuable resources for planning your Bible ministry.

Some of the suggested ministries described are: VBS, backyard Bible schools, day camping, family camping, choir tours, coffee houses, and more. A countdown schedule, program ideas, teacher training, areas of learner growth, and program evaluation are just a few areas covered.

Having a successful curriculum hinges on planning, and this book is aimed at that goal. Every church leader should review his ministry and read the book. It has useful ideas that can be put into practice to have a successful and blessed outreach.



# Church Growth Forum



## ARE YOU HAVING TROUBLE . . .

. . . finding enough hours in the day to get everything done? Do the meetings of your church make the best use of the time available? Do you know how to organize your time and your work so that you can get more done in less time?

Pastors, here's your opportunity to learn about planning, organizing, leading, staffing, directing, and evaluating as applied to your work in the local church. A special **Management for Growth Seminar** for Brethren pastors will be conducted on March 22-23 at Ashland, Ohio, by Olan Hendrix.

The cost of the seminar is \$35.00. Churches are encouraged to pay their pastor's expenses so that he can take advantage of this excellent leadership training opportunity. Send registrations to Central Council, 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805, with a \$10.00 preregistration fee.

Churches that are growing utilize time and make meetings count. Pastors, find out how by participating in this seminar. Register today.

## THE CHURCH CREATIVE

The church is both organism and organization. The church should be an organized organism. All organisms are organized to grow and reproduce. Is your church organized for growth?

Since Jesus Christ, the agent of creation (John 1:3), is also the Lord of the Church, we should expect the Church to be creative. Marvin Bower gives four ways for expanding an organization's ability to innovate: 1) "develop a fact-founded, objective approach to solving problems," 2) "separate long-range planning from short-term execution," 3) "foster a desire to improve and a dissatisfaction with the status quo," and 4) "create a working atmosphere within the organization that leads to freedom of expression and to openness among people" (quoted in **The Velvet Covered Brick** by Howard Butt, pp. 151-152).

Does your church have these characteristics of a creative organization? Is your church organized and functioning for growth? Jesus Christ, our creative Lord, died, rose again, and daily gives us His Spirit that we might be creative and growing in our individual lives and in our churches.

## FIVE MIAMI VALLEY . . .

. . . Brethren churches experienced a creative and stimulating **Church Growth Seminar** on January 30-31. Seminar leaders John Brownsberger and Arden E. Gilmer led the participants through

an introduction to church growth principles. Each church left the seminar with one-year and five-year goals and with an idea of some strategies they would employ in the power of the Holy Spirit to reach those goals. New Lebanon hosted the seminar and took high honors with 47 registered participants. Other participants came from Gratis, West Alexandria, Eldorado, and Gretna.

The five churches made combined faith projections of a 17% increase in membership in one year and a 77% increase in membership in five years. When it came to morning worship attendances, they projected a 42% increase in one year and a 129% increase in five years.

Yes, our churches can grow if we want to grow, if we will apply biblical church growth principles, and if we will pay the price for growth by investing our time and our energy in those things which result in all types of church growth—spiritual, numerical and organizational.

## CHURCH GROWTH UPDATE . . .

. . . finds several more church growth seminars scheduled and others in the planning stages. During March, church growth seminars will be conducted at the Bradenton (Fla.) Brethren Church (March 12-13) and at the Milledgeville (Ill.) Brethren Church (March 26-27). You can be involved in church growth by praying for these churches and seminars. To schedule a church growth seminar for your church or for a cluster of Brethren churches, contact Arden E. Gilmer, 530 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.

## MULTIPLYING CHURCH GROWTH READING . . .

. . . is one way to build growth consciousness and develop growth attitudes in your church. One excellent church growth periodical is **Church Growth: America**. Both clergy and laity will find good church growth ideas in this highly readable paper, available for a \$5.00 donation from the Institute for American Church Growth, 333 East Foothill Blvd., Arcadia, CA 91006.

## SHARE YOUR IDEAS, INSIGHTS, AND . . .

. . . strategies! Write them down and send them to Arden E. Gilmer. We'll share them with others by printing them in "Church Growth Forum." Let's help each other grow for the glory of the Lord and the finding of the lost.

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# EPHESUS:

## A Growing Church

We last looked at the church in Corinth, a problem-riddled church, for factors that made the New Testament churches grow at an amazing rate. Let us now look briefly at the church in Ephesus, a church that seems to be practically problem-free.

When the Apostle Paul left Corinth on his second missionary journey, he sailed to Ephesus (Acts 19) where he found a few disciples, men who professed to being Christians. They were men who were learners, or followers, of the Christian faith as they knew it. They had not even heard of the Holy Spirit, much less been filled by Him.

Paul enlightened them, baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus and laid hands on them. They received the Holy Spirit, and the church at Ephesus was born. The list of charter members consisted of just twelve men, but from this small beginning a great church came into being. **All great churches begin small; all big churches were once little.**

The account of the birth and early years of this church in the Acts, and Paul's letter, written when the church was about seven years old, reveal two factors of vital importance for strong and growing churches.

The first vital factor is found in Acts 19:18-20: "And many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed."

The Ephesians were a superstitious people, practicing exorcism and black magic. When the

***"All great churches begin small; all big churches were once little."***

sons of the Jewish priest Sceva saw Paul cast out evil spirits in the name of Jesus, they tried it too. Paul used the name of Jesus, and the spirits were expelled; the exorcists used it, and they themselves were forced to flee from the place, beaten and naked.

Evidently there were a number of people who

had professed faith in Jesus Christ and who had joined the church, but who still practiced this magic. When they saw what happened to the sons of Sceva, they came before the Apostles and the church to confess and to report that they had continued to practice this pagan art.

But they did more than that. They brought all the things related to this evil practice and had a big bonfire, thus demonstrating publicly their renunciation of all that these represented. **They made a clean and complete break with their pagan past and practices.**

Many professing Christians today still believe in these pagan practices. They have given them

***"If a church is to grow, it must rid itself of all that is contrary to life and faith in Him."***

holy names, symbols and Scriptural words, but they are still the work and delight of the Devil.

If a church is to grow and become a strong witness for Christ, it must rid itself of all that is contrary to life and faith in Him. When we attempt to drag old customs and practices into the new life in Christ, we are hindered in our progress and our witness. The wise counsel in Hebrews 12:1-2 says: "... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin that doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." We too, need to lay aside any weight that would hinder us if we are to become victorious Christians and a dynamic church.

Another factor of importance to numerical and spiritual growth is found in the letter Paul wrote to the Ephesians some five years after he had left the church. He wrote: "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and **love for all the saints**, cease not to give thanks for you . . ." (Ephesians 1:15-16).

We have seen before how faith is necessary for any church to thrive. We see it again here, but the additional factor is also one of importance—their "love for all the saints." Faith must precede love, for Christian faith produces love. The



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by George W. Solomon

faith and love of this congregation reached far beyond its own neighborhood; their's was a love for all the saints.

Later in this letter, Paul sought to stress the unity of the Body of Christ: "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Many Christians have become so ingrown, so narrow, so self-righteous in their life and practice that they have nothing but suspicion and distrust for all other Christians.

If a church is to grow it must meet the needs of people, and one of the basic needs of every human being is love. When asked what the first and greatest commandment was, Jesus said: "Love God . . . and love your neighbor." And when he was giving his final instructions to His disciples, He said: "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another" (John 13:34-35).

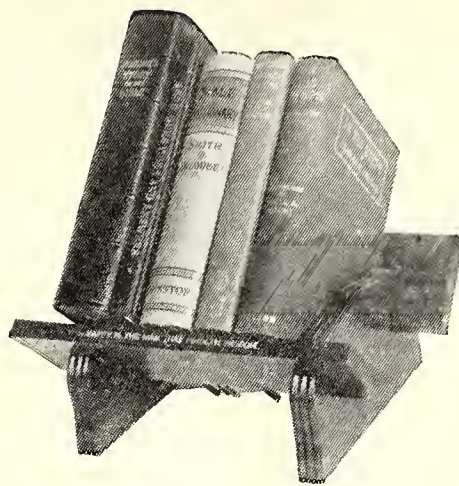
If the presence of love is acceptable evidence

*"By this shall all men  
know that ye are my  
disciples. . . ."*

that we are his disciples, then it seems to me the absence of love must bear testimony that we are not his disciples. If this is true, the church that finds it impossible to love "all the saints" may not be Christians at all.

In the world people feel and experience anger, wrath, malice, back-biting, false witnessing, gossip, hatred, strife. If they find the same in the church, they will be repulsed by it. If they can find love in the church, if they can see it in our lives as well as hear it from our lips, they will be attracted to the church and will seek to know Him who has shed His love abroad in our hearts.

When we come to Christ, making a clean break with the old life of sin, and when others can see His Presence empowering us to love, then, and only then, will the church grow and become a strong influence in the world about it.



## book reviews

**The Richest Lady in Town** by Joyce Landorf  
(Zondervan, 1973, 152 pp., \$3.95)

Joyce Landorf does not tell us how to make a million dollars, but rather how to spend the wealth already made available through Christ. This dynamic person tells her own real-life story. Throughout the book there are illustrations from the lives of others she has come to know and appreciate.

She is a popular speaker and singer for banquets. Therefore her first book was entitled **Let's Have a Banquet**. The second was **His Stubborn Love** and this is her third book. Mother of two, she conducts her own regular radio program.

"Bank accounts? Trust funds? Furs? Jewels? No, your inheritance lies in the large holdings of spiritual gifts, treasures, and power readily available in Christ. These have already been deposited in your name, but in order to use your accounts to the fullest, there is a lot of learning and living to do in Christ—and this book is an excellent place to begin."

—Julie Flora, Ashland, Ohio

**The Trip Beyond** by Brian Rudd and Walter Wagner (Prentice-Hall, 1972, \$5.95)

This book is about a minister's son who went bad. He did everything possible to disgrace his parents, including experimentation with drugs, liquor, and finally robbery. He was caught and imprisoned. While in solitary confinement he found Jesus. His conversion was a result of remembering verses he had learned earlier and reading a Gideon Bible. After his conversion he began preaching in jail. He said, "Jesus walked right out of Matthew to me."

This book is a thrill to read, as you follow the story of one who finds Christ. Today, he preaches and speaks at schools to youth, telling what Christ did for him.

—Marjorie Sechrist, Nappanee

Is There More Money  
For Your Church?\*

Yes, I believe there is more money for your church, somewhere.

But getting more money for your church is more than just raising more. It is also efficient resource allocation and better management of what you have. Making money for your church is the process of good spending habits, good investment techniques, and careful cash management.

There is simply no pot of gold at the end of the rainbow to fill a shrinking church treasury. And persistent gouging of the membership to cough up yet another \$10 bill gets old all too soon. You can get more money for your church by lifting the sights of your members to give more, to be sure, but with techniques that do not offend. You can also get more money for your church by managing your resources well and paying attention to such little things as where all the postage stamps and paper clips go. Giving attention to the larger matters—the pastor’s compensation, the heat bill, benevolence commitments, lawn care—may make a significant difference, too, in the balance in the bank at the end of the year. Fund raising and management of available resources go hand in hand toward making more money available to your church.

Like it or not, money is the essence of your church’s survival. You need it. So you cannot ignore money as though your church and its pro-

gram can go on perpetually no matter what. Faith is not a belief in the assurance of constant financial viability. God does provide, of course. But in a society where goods and services are bought and sold competitively with money, even the church must appreciate the value of the dollar if it expects to carry its program to the community—a community, incidentally, which desperately needs what the church can provide for it, including its money.

I am convinced that there is always more money for your church somewhere. But it just doesn’t always come running when you want it. Most often you have to go out looking for it. In fact, an aggressive plan of fund raising and of conservation may be the only thing that will keep your church from going under next year. Indeed, a good plan for resource allocation could be the very key to the survival of your church.

Money is not evil. In fact, it is really good. In the church, it gets the work of the Lord done in a way that would be impossible without it. His kingdom depends on it and His Church cannot survive without it.

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# Progressivism

Earl Crissman explores the historical background of the term and its implications for today.

Progress is the base or root word in the terms “progressive” and “progressivism.” It involves something that is in motion toward some goal—good or bad. Progress cannot be stopped completely, however, it can be hindered from moving very rapidly. A. T. Ronk states that true “progressivism” is “growing in knowledge and spiritual magnitude.”<sup>1</sup> Notice he said “growing”—which involves or implies progress. A “progressive”, in relation to our heritage on the other hand, is one who wants and strives for freedom to dress as one pleases, Sunday schools, a free press, a salaried ministry, high schools, colleges, etc. He is one who is striving for a closer walk with God in all areas of life and is constantly seeking ways to glorify Him.

Henry Holsinger came upon the scene and soon became a major influence in bringing the “fast element”, as it was called by many, out into the open. He started a paper—**Progressive Christian**—in which he believed should be an open rostrum (that is, publish pro and con to all issues). This did not please the standing committee. Many individuals however believed that the church must keep “pace” with times and move ahead (progress) toward perfection. The whole point was to draw or progress nearer to the exact word of God, and live by it. This was where the major difficulty was found among the three classes or groups of people in the Brethren Church (Old Order, Conservatives, and Progressives). The Old Order believed in sticking with tradition and the Conservatives leaned heavily this way also. The Progressives believed that these traditions must be observed but that we must not stay there. We must progress to the exact word of God. This is what ignited the fire which was to end in a three way split. Everything new (Sunday schools, high schools, colleges, etc.) that Holsinger and the others in his group began was rebuked or criticized heavily by the Old Order and by many of the Conservatives.

In 1880-81 and the years following, many articles began to be published concerning what the “progressive element” really believed and advocated, because there were many questions in the air concerning it. We find the majority of this material in the **Progressive Christian** without which we would have very little on the whole movement.

J. M. Meyers stated in an article for **Gospel Preacher** that Alexander Mack once said, “Let us not at all rest upon long usages, but let the word of the Lord be our only rule and guide.”<sup>2</sup> So we see that most of the “progressives” were finding themselves saying the same thing. Progress must be made toward following God more closely and completely.

Elder J. W. Beer also had much to say of the mounting situation. He stated that the Brethren have always held that “anything more than the gospel they did not need, anything less than the gospel they did not want, and anything that differed from the gospel they would not have.”<sup>3</sup> Another point is that the Brethren have also believed that it was wise and good to have council or conference meetings because “in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Also the Brethren believed that in these various councils that neither the local churches nor the representatives of the churches on the councils had the authority to be law-making bodies (but rather—they were only of an advisory nature). In other words no one person, nor council made up of several men, could make laws for the entire church. Another area Elder Beer brings up is that everyone is “fallible” and that it should be every church’s and individuals duty and goal “to come nearer and still nearer to the infallible word of God—the unadulterated gospel of Christ.” In all of these areas, one must come to the conclusion that “the Brethren always held it to be their privilege and their duty to make changes, when, by changing, they could come nearer to the requirements of the gospel of Christ, the only law in religion. This is the old and sure foundation.”<sup>4</sup>

Elder Beer believed that the Old Order Brethren (because of such actions as requiring uniformity of dress, etc., as reasons for expulsion) have left the once honored Brethren basic principle: “the Gospel of Christ is our only law in religion.” Concerning the Conservatives, Beer thinks of their views as “gumelastic”—that is, they state that the annual meetings’ minutes are advisory “where the gospel is silent, but they expel members—and especially helpless sisters—for not conforming to that advice, even when the gospel is as silent as the tomb.” Finally, Beer’s thoughts on the



## Progressivism (cont.)

Progressives are that they "are the only Brethren who stand on the old and sure foundation, because we still preach the gospel of Christ is our only law in religion, that it is expedient to have conference meetings, and that it is our duty to introduce changes whenever we can come nearer the requirments of the gospel."<sup>5</sup>

From these and many more writers we see that change was in the air. There was a groping or grasping being felt as I read various writers of this movement. There seemed to be much struggling within their own minds as to God's will for them at that time. They had no intention of starting a new party. They (Progressives) wanted to be able to expand their area of ministry and follow God's leading.

Henry Holsinger dealt with the topic of "progressive" in his paper. He stated that the purpose or goal of his paper was to:

advocate an onward movement by the use of all lawful and expedient means. We hold it to be our duty to 'keep pace with the times.' And we mean exactly what we say, an onward movement, and not a backward

movement. To people who cannot tell backward from forward, up hill from down hill, it will be a little plainer: a movement by the direction of God's Word."<sup>6</sup>

Through this constant forward, progressive movement, Holsinger believes that they, the church, will be able to get closer to the exact word of God, but never will it stray too far from it.

A point that I should bring out and discuss here (if not sooner) is that fact that two major problems were being found over and over by the Progressives. One was the uniformity of dress. The Old Order believed very strictly in uniformity of dress—down to the very number of buttons on one's coat. How long one should have his coat, the roundness of it, etc. were strongly stressed by them. The other area of conflict concerned the power of the annual meeting. The classified minutes of the annual meeting were being considered and practiced as laws sent from God—rather than as advisory statements. They, the minutes, had begun to be used on equal basis (or superior) with the Bible in ruling one's life. Holsinger and others were very much against this whole idea and reacted to it. The Progressives believed that dress should be in plainness with no stress on uniformity; and that classified minutes should be advisory only and not mandatory. The Old Order and Conservatives had reached the point that they were expelling members who were not conforming to the classified minutes. What had happened to what the founders believed in and stressed? The Progressives began moving in the direction that they believed to be nearer to God's will for their lives.

Holsinger, as a representative of the progressive movement, believed that:

The time was when a log house, with a clap-board roof and slab seats would have answered very well; but to put up such a house for the Lord now, when we live in good houses, would be making a sinful discrimination between ourselves and God's people, and God's cause. And as there was a time when the church got along without a press, without a newspaper, without a college, but now they are being used to the glory of God, and for the advancement of His religion. That is what we mean by keeping pace with the times. We would use all the latest discoveries, inventions, and improvements, in advancing the cause of Christ. We would make the waters of the great deep, the lightnings of the heavens, the wisdom of men, the strength of men, and even the wealth of men, the filthy lucre, not to rule, but to subserve the interests of the Church. And we would keep up, fully up, and not a year or twenty-five years behind the times, as the Brethren have been all along in most things, such as newspapers, colleges, Sunday schools, and the like. . . . Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, all such things we would be subservient to the cause of Christ.<sup>7</sup>

(continued on page 27)



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# MISSIONARY NEWS



## *Glorify God With What You Have*

To meet the challenges of our times, the Brethren Church in 1975 reached out to start a new field in Malaysia and a new area mission work in the previously established field in India. The necessary budget figure to financially accomplish this endeavor was \$272,000. The Missionary Board prayerfully accepted the budget in faith and the Holy Spirit gave our supportive Brethren the necessary missionary impetus.

Missionary impetus comes from the Scriptures, for it is through them that the Spirit motivates and directs the church. We are grateful for a Bible-based people who have missionary hearts and who know their obligation to the Lord and to the world. Brethren, you heard, you saw the need, and you responded. We met our 1975 budget!

The Church today has a new awareness for missions, and it is no longer a responsibility shouldered just by the churches of the West. The churches of the Third World are sending missionaries and responding to the Macedonian call. East is meeting West, and we realize the call to service is not restricted to us alone. The call to serve comes to all who name Christ as Lord and Savior.

However, in this bicentennial year we are again reminded of our Christian heritage and of the multiple blessings we have known through the ages. How many blessings we have to share with all peoples! Being more blessed than some peoples of the world, we in turn have greater responsibility.

You can help rescue mankind—don't leave it all to others—by:

1. Having a missionary heart
2. Praying for kingdom needs everywhere
3. Reading missionary literature to develop appreciation for outreach
4. Testing your missionary zeal by involvement with unconverted people and thus not underestimating the task of the missionary

March is World Mission emphasis month, the time to increase our personal commitment and to move forward in outreach in 1976.



# MALAYSIA

## newest mission field for the Brethren Church

David and Jenny Loi left the United States in September of 1974 to begin their work in West Malaysia, their destination being Penang. They first visited their family homes and then journeyed on to the new and strange place they had committed themselves to serve. You will note that Jenny and David were **not** going home, but venturing to a distant field. They had their share of illness in changing to a new environment, frustration trying to find a place to live, and disappointment over lost shipment. Also, having come from East Malaysia originally, they were like foreigners even though in their own land.

They are located in an area of Penang called Island Glades, a modern housing development. They have space therein for the mission office and a meeting room as well as their living space.

Island Glades residents did not respond to David and Jenny's evangelistic outreach as they hoped. The people did not accept their invitation to come to the mission for meetings. They then determined to have Bible studies in their home for young people; the Presbyterian church youth group needed leaders, and David and Jenny offered their assistance. It was hoped that these young people could reach out into the immediate community and draw others into the group, but this also failed to materialize. There was a need for

teaching the Mandarin language to young people in this area, so David and Jenny took this project upon themselves for outreach, but there was little response as they tried to tie it in with Bible study and fellowship.

### Breakthrough

Jenny began work September 1st at a Specialist Center, a private hospital run by Christians. In her nursing duties she will be working with 7 specialists, 2 radiologists, and an anesthetist. Plans are for this to be the best equipped and best staffed private hospital in Penang and perhaps in all of Malaysia. This has been a very difficult physical assignment for Jenny; the work has been very difficult during these days of getting the hospital established, but she does appreciate the opportunity to witness to people who come for treatment.

In August work was begun at Telok Bahang, a fisherman's village about 15 miles from their home. An average of 100 children a week attended the Sunday School. Then on November 6 meetings were held for adults. They taught them to sing gospel songs, distributed the Gospel of John to each, and taught the first chapter of John at the first session. Then they organized a literacy class for adults. To aid in these programs in the villages, David has begun accordion lessons, for he felt this was the best type of musical instrument to have for the work in the villages. It attracts the children, and they all like to sing very much.

They spent two weeks visiting 80 homes in Telok Bahang. A survey of the village indicated there are 50 to 60 children between the ages of five and six who do not have a chance of receiving kindergarten education. People at Telok Bahang are poor. The majority are fishermen, and they cannot afford to send their children to kindergarten at Georgetown due to the high cost and transportation difficulties.

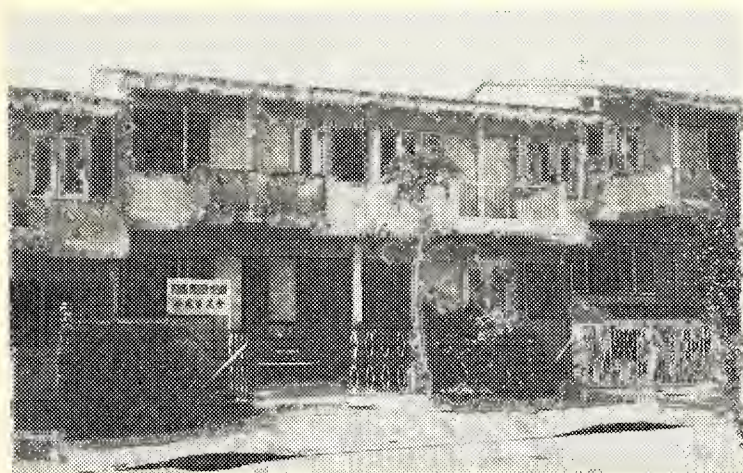
David has been fortunate to have the assistance of Baptist Seminary students with the children's work at Telok Bahang as it becomes more demanding. These seminary students will be graduating with a diploma in church education. David has been planning and praying that a Miss Ngeow Lee Ling would continue to work with him. At



*David & Jenny Loi*



Trials and struggles faced David and Jenny Loi as they opened this new field, but God's timing is being revealed.



*Mission headquarters and home of David and Jenny Loi. Recently purchased Honda auto is shown.*

the present time she is employed and working out very well.

David's plan to operate a nursery school once a week, beginning in January, has now become a reality. At first they planned a full-time nursery school with Miss Ngeow in charge six days a week; though this would be ideal, it would confine their work to Telok Bahang at this point, and it is their plan to go to as many fishing villages as possible to preach the gospel and to start holding meetings. They are very eager to begin work at Batu Maung (near the Bayan Lepas Airport) and also at Jalan Kampong Melayu, so they will be looking for meeting places.

As of January 6 there were 32 children registered for the children's literacy class. Their ages are between five and six years old. There will be two classes, with Miss Ngeow teaching the five-year-old group and David instructing the six-year-old class. He remarks, "What an exciting experience I will have when I think of myself as being a kindergarten teacher! Most of the teachers are ladies and very, very few are men!" The mission will offer free tuition, but the parents will have to buy books and supplies for their children.

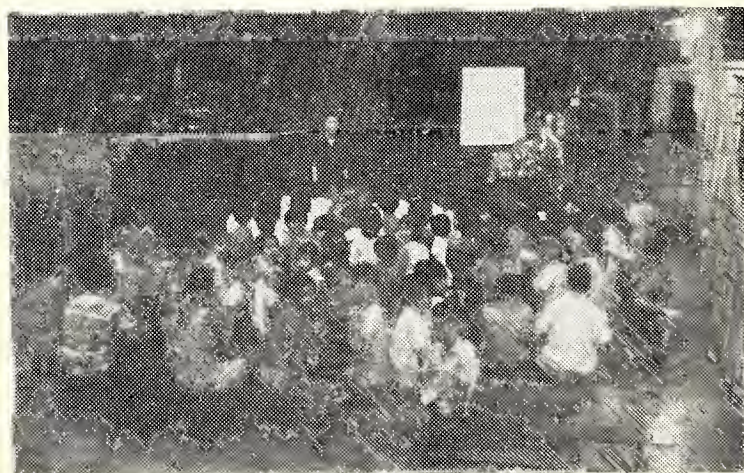
David visits the prison regularly with other coworkers. On December 20 they had baptism for 33 prisoners, and David presented certificates and gifts to each one. He is thankful for this additional ministry in Penang.

## Enrichment

David and Jenny recently attended a one-day church growth seminar conducted by the Malaysian Church Growth Center. There were 105 participants from more than 20 churches assembled in the Presbyterian church. The entire seminar was conducted in both the Chinese and English languages. The main feature lectures were by Rev. Duain Vierow of the Church Growth Center. The feature lectures were entitled, "What is Church Growth and How Do We Identify It?" and "Some Principles of Church Growth for the Malaysian Church."

Discussion periods were focused on the application of church growth principles in the local situation. There were sessions of prayer and praise enabling participants to feel the bonds of Christian fellowship. The panel discussion in the late afternoon on "Mobilizing the Congregation for Growth" included several very practical suggestions from men who have been involved with church growth at the local level.

David states, "The highlight of the seminar was perhaps the newly acquired color film "Reach Out and Grow" relating to church growth. The film is challenging both the church and all Christians in Malaysia."



*Jenny Loi teaches children at Telok Bahang in an open-air area.*



# JOHN GULI

## a continuing story

The name of John Guli became familiar to The Brethren Church in the United States in 1969 when the Brethren contributed to the training of two young Higi men at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria. The scholarships helped these men to become sufficiently trained to assume important leadership functions. They were ordained into the full ministry in March, 1969.

John worked closely with Larry Bolinger during his missionary service in Nigeria to broaden his involvement in the churches and to function on the newly-formed advisory committee for the Higi churches. Also, ordained Higi men were assuming duties previously shouldered by missionaries. John took seriously his charge and was chosen to lead the literature-literacy committee. Later he was chosen to be the translator of the New Testament into the Higi language along with Wycliffe translation linguist Roger Mohrlang.

In 1973 John Guli came into the lives of many Brethren when he was one of four Nigerian leaders to visit the United States as part of the 50th

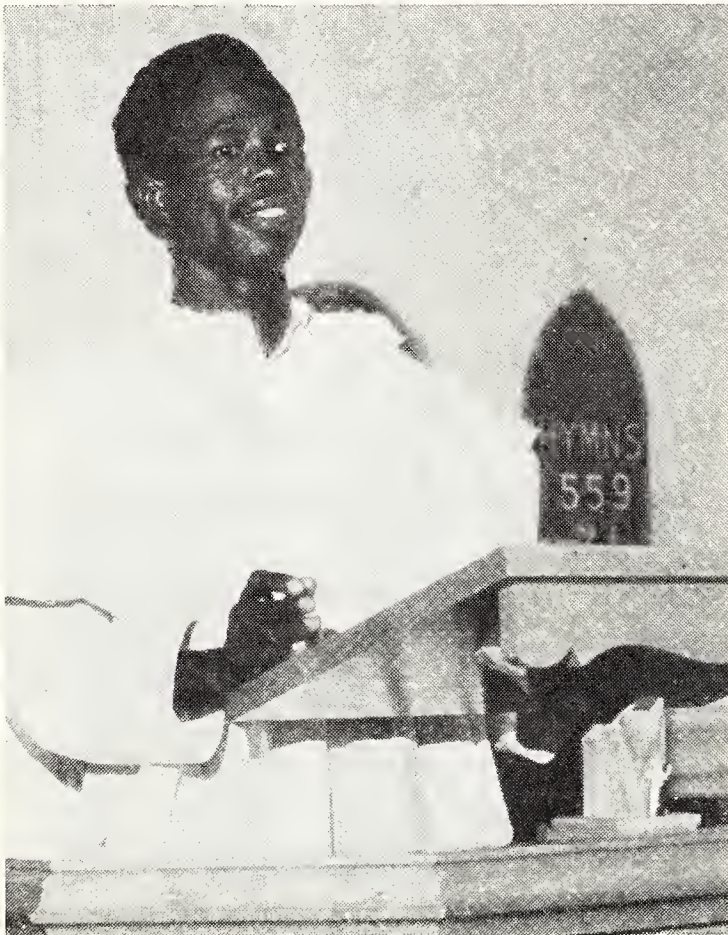
anniversary celebration of the national Nigerian church.

John Guli now has returned to the United States to study for nine months at the School of Missions, Fuller Theological Seminary. The Nigerian church approved his departure for higher training and is caring for his wife and six children while he is away. He is under the direction of Dr. Charles H. Kraft and is sponsored and supported by the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

The Higi churches are growing very rapidly; pastors and evangelists are vigorous workers, but good solid, trained leadership for future depth is essential. John will offer solid, constructive input, shoulder responsibility previously held by missionaries, and give much needed direction to the growing church.

In December John made a short trip to Nigeria to participate in the dedicatory program commemorating the printing of the New Testament in Higi. Estimated attendance at this event was more than 7,000 people, with 1,500 copies of the Scriptures being sold in less than two hours. He is now back at Fuller School of Missions for completion of his training in church growth.

Later this year John will be doing limited deputation among Brethren churches before his return to Nigeria. The Brethren have a real share in John's training at the present time for the Missionary Board has underwritten his training. Your contributions to world missions will continue our investment in the training of promising national leaders, to assist the Nigerians as their leaders continue to take more responsibility in the effective growth and development of their church.



*John Guli spoke at Ashland Park Street and other Brethren churches in 1973.*

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## Planning For Growth

Pastors of various evangelical churches in the Rosario area of Argentina gathered on September 1-3, 1975, on the campus of Eden Bible Institute at Soldini for a church growth workshop. A number of our Brethren pastors were participants, with Rev. Juan Carlos Miranda and Rev. Raymond Aspinall sharing in leadership. Rev. Miranda, the Institute director, functioned as a coordinator.

This church growth workshop is one of the preparation activities for **Plan Rosario**, a two-year evangelistic effort sponsored by Overseas Crusades and featuring a citywide evangelistic campaign in late 1976 led by Argentine evangelist Luis Palau. This is to be an extensive cooperative effort



among evangelicals in and around Argentina's second largest city for widespread evangelization and the birth of dozens of new churches.

Dr. Vergil Gerber, Executive Director of Evangelical Missions Information Service (EMIS), a participating church growth resource leader, has written about this joint effort and of the participants' expectation of the harvest. Watch for his article which will appear in an early 1976 issue of **Moody Monthly**.

We are thankful for this massive evangelistic effort, where Brethren join with brethren across denominational lines to win a city to Christ. This is an invitation to pray for the people of Rosario and for God's people who are working together in training, witnessing, and discipling, that existing congregations shall be strengthened and enlarged, and that many new churches shall be added to the body of believers in that city.



*Church growth workshop at the Eden Bible Institute. Juan Carlos Miranda is at the far right.*

## Medically-Impoverished Families Served

There are non-profit organizations serving as a facility for the collection of donated drugs and hospital supplies distributed overseas through medical missions. Our Brethren Mission in India has been fortunate enough to secure some of these medical supplies as well as equipment to use in their distribution of medicines. These were supplied as requested by K. Prasantha Kumar, National Director, Brethren Missions in India through Church World Service at Windsor, Maryland. Medicines contributed by drug companies in the United States have been a tremendous help to give medical aid to impoverished families abroad.

Shipments of these needy supplies will greatly aid our Brethren Health Center in India and people all over the world. However, the distribution of supplies has been severely handicapped by the Internal Revenue Code legislation of 1969. This restricted the ability of corporations to contribute large quantities of their products as had been possible prior to the Tax Reform Act of 1969. No longer could they take fair market value of goods donated as an income-tax deduction; they were allowed simply cost of product. This made no allowance for overhead, packaging, handling, transportation, etc. Now, in making large donations, corporations have to allow for a cash outlay along with the considerable goods donated. Many could not do this, so our voluntary agencies have lost an estimated \$50 million in donated goods each year since 1970.

To correct this situation, five identical bills have been introduced in Congress to permit corporations to have an income-tax deduction of 50% of the excess of fair market value on goods donated to our medical agencies. This will not bring it back to the pre-1969 status, but will considerably improve the flow of much-needed supplies. Your help is urgently needed to ensure passage of this legislation. The identical bills are HR 1690, 5845, 6233, 8200, 8293 and we suggest

you ask your Congressman to co-sponsor the above bills with Henry Helstoski, (D-N.J.) or Barber Conable, (R-N.Y.).

One can send to MAP, Box 50, Wheaton, Illinois 60187 for quantities of a sample letter. Permission is granted to reproduce the letter for groups to distribute. You may also circulate copies for numerous signatures as a petition. Send one to Congressman Al Ullman, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and also send one to your own Congressperson.



"It is a marvelous thing to tell the parents of a dying child, 'your child will recover because people in America are concerned enough to send good medicine to cure this illness.' I know of no other more effective way to neutralize so much bad propaganda so loudly voiced about Americans."

—Lorne Brown, M.D.



*Vijaya Kumar's wife, Sujatha, examining a patient in one of the India villages.*



# BRETHREN MISSIONS



## WINFIELD

**Dick and Kitty  
Melissa Jo**

**c/o Church of the Brethren  
Box 626  
Jos, Benue-Plateau State  
Nigeria, West Africa**

## GRIEVE

**Jerry and Cheryl  
Dawn, Nicole, Seth Andrew  
c/o Hong Secondary School  
P.M.B. 2016  
Hong via Yola  
North East State  
Nigeria, West Africa**

## ASPINALL

**Raymond and Marilyn  
Mark (presently in Ohio)  
Kathy and Claudia**

**Ayacucho 1858  
Rosario (Pcia. Santa Fe)  
Argentina, South America**

## WINTER

**William and Sharon  
Todd and Heidi  
(on furlough)**

## MIRANDA

**Juan Carlos and Maria  
Adrianna and Gus (in Ashland  
College)  
Samuel, Michael, Yvonne  
(on furlough)**

## ARGENTINA



**Since 1948**



# ARIES OVERSEAS

## COLOMBIA



Since 1973

## SOLOMON

Kenneth and Jeannette  
Timothy and Rebecca (presently  
in Sarasota)  
Joel and Margaret

Apartado Aereo 055171  
Medellin  
Colombia, South America

## KUMAR

Prasanth and Nirmala  
Shanti, Sunita, Sudhir

Brethren Mission  
Post Box 64  
Rajahmundry, 533101 (A.P.)  
India

## KUMAR

Vijay and Sujatha

Brethren Mission  
Post Box 147  
Waltair R.S.P.O.  
Visakhapatnam, 530004 (A.P.)  
India

## INDIA



Since 1970

## MALAYSIA



Since 1974

## LOI

David and Jenny

Address him as:  
Loi Lee Hoot  
2X Lorong Delima 12  
Island Glades  
Penang, Malaysia





A Home Mission Ministry in St. Petersburg, Florida

Reporters:

Phil & Joan Lersch  
Bonnie Munson



## Recycle Christmas Cards

We have many beautiful Christmas cards at Brethren House. Some were sent to us this year and some we have kept from our own mail in the past. In addition to their beauty, these cards can provide the basis for learning activities around Christmas time.

Here is some of what we did this year to capitalize on the storehouse of cards.

### A Sequence Book

(What Happened At Christmas)

Ahead of time I prepared large sheets of cardboard the weight of index cards (24 x 30 inches) with these headings, one heading per poster:

ANGEL VISITS MARY AND MAKES

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL TO

BETHLEHEM TO PAY TAXES

JESUS IS BORN IN A STABLE

AN ANGEL ANNOUNCES THE BIRTH OF

JESUS TO THE SHEPHERDS

THE SHEPHERDS VISIT JESUS IN

THE STABLE

THE WISE MEN BRING GIFTS TO

JESUS IN A HOUSE

The first task of the children was to decide the sequence of the cardboard sheets. I had scrambled them and placed them on the floor. After they arranged them in the correct order, one child numbered each sheet in its upper right-hand corner.

Then each child chose one of the cardboard sheets to work on. Some children worked together on one sheet. The assignment was to find pictures from the Christmas cards that illustrated the heading at the top of the cardboard page. They could use any number of cards and paste the pictures in any manner they chose.

After all of the pages had been illustrated with the Christmas card pictures, a couple of the children helped me assemble them into a large book. We used masking tape to hinge each page to the next by running the tape lengthwise connecting two pages. Then when all of the pages were assembled we used cloth tape around the outside of the front and back pages. (This is the method we use to assemble our illustrated hymns also.)

One of the highlights of our closing worship on December 28 was to set the book up on an easel and look together at the large pages, commenting on details of the pictures that clarified the events. Focusing the children's attention on these colorful pictures that they themselves had

chosen and arranged on the pages helped assure their attention, as I reminded them again of the scriptural accounts. Of course we had to remember that many of the details were merely the artists' ideas of what things looked like, and we could refer to the Bible itself for many of the answers to our questions about which picture was right.

Little details in the pictures gave us springboards for explaining parts of the account that they might have missed. Some of the pictures of Mary and Joseph traveling were without the baby. These showed the trip to **Bethlehem**. But others showed Mary carrying the baby, so this had to be the family traveling to **Egypt** to escape from Herod.

The pictures showing the Wise Men bringing their gifts to the baby in a house with Jesus sitting on his mother's lap pointed up the fact that Matthew records the Wise Men did visit Jesus "in a house."

### Double Recycle

Inside many Christmas gifts we find little plastic holders with indentations for the item in the box. For instance, many boxes of Christmas candy have transparent plastic trays with indentations for each piece of candy.

We used these recently as individual picture frames for small scenes from Christmas cards. **It is fun to cut and paste pictures into these little sections and again focuses attention on the scenes depicting Biblical events.** So we were able to recycle two used items—the Christmas cards and the insides of some gift boxes.

Boxes with clear plastic lids also make good settings for little Christmas scenes using Christmas card picture background and cut-out figures standing in front of the scene for a three-dimensional effect in a "box scene."

### Now Is The Time

Set aside now the left-over Christmas cards from last December (if you haven't thrown them out yet). You might also want to clip these ideas for your use, add your own, and be all set for a good Christmas lesson next December in your church school class, youth group, or in your own home.

—Jean



# UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church  
and the Evangelical Press Association

## Newark Church Burns Mortgage In Special Service

**NEWARK (Ohio)**—A day of celebration and praise was climaxed with a traditional mortgage burning on the afternoon of Feb. 1 at the Newark Brethren Church. Moderator Walter Gemmell lead the program entitled, "This Is Your Life."

The ceremony followed regular Sunday morning services and a pot-luck dinner.

Payment on the final mortgage was completed in December after several years of diligent effort by the members. Repayment was hastened by a second Ten Dollar Club call in 1972 and by a special gift by Mrs. Cora Shoemaker and Mrs. Chlora Spiedel in 1975.

Speaking on the "life" and history of the church were: Mrs. Mabel Wilkins, charter member of the church; Mr. Paul McGraw, layman formerly from Massillon who served as interim pastor in 1967; Rev. Milton Bowman, pastor in 1968-69; Rev. Alvin Grumbling, present pastor; Rev. Don Rowser, member of the Ohio Dist. Mission Board; and Mr. Tom Stoffer, president of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

Gale Jenkins offered special music for the occasion. Craig Brown, student at Ashland Theological Seminary, shared how the church had helped him grow in his faith.

Participating in the mortgage burning were trustees Lawrence Petrey, James Jenkins, and Gerald Wilson, Jr.

After words of greeting and praise were expressed by those in attendance, the service closed with singing of the "Doxology."

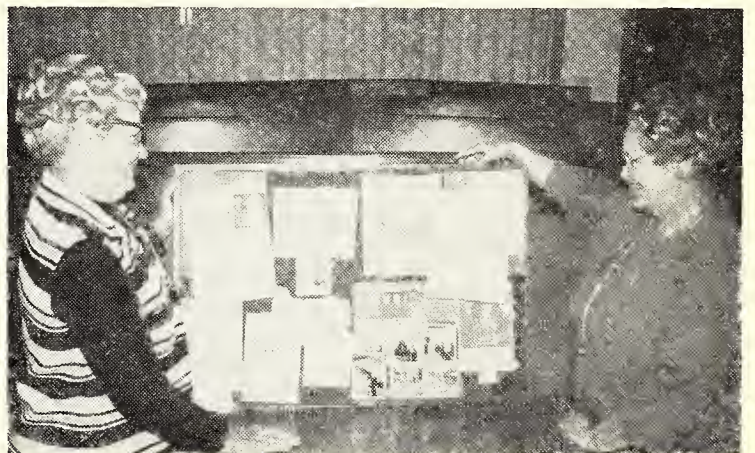
Rev. Bowman spoke at the morning worship service on the theme, "Enlarged Vision," using as his text Isaiah 54:1-10.

The church now looks forward to assisting new Brethren churches in the same way as they have been helped. They expressed special thanks to all who have assisted them to this point, both through prayer and financial support.



Staff photos by R. Waters

*Church trustees burning mortgage are (above, left to right) Lawrence Petrey, Gerald Wilson, Jr., and James Jenkins. Below, Mabel Wilkins (left) shows Mrs. Milton Bowman a bulletin board she prepared for the occasion of news clippings about the church.*



## Membership Growth

**Ardmore:** 10 by baptism, 3 by letter  
**Burlington:** 16 by baptism, 2 by letter  
**Williamstown:** 2 by baptism

## Goldenaires

**MR. & MRS. PAUL LADOW**, 60th, Feb. 7. Members of Elkhart (Ind.) First church for over 45 years.

**MR. & MRS. LOUIS RUSSELL**, 67th, Dec. 23. Members of Ft. Scott (Kans.) church.



## Construction Progresses on Carpenter's Shop

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Demolition of two houses on Claremont Avenue and one on College Avenue have cleared the way for construction of the Carpenter's Shop, the new Brethren bookstore in Ashland.

A week after the bulldozers arrived on Jan. 12 the three houses had been totally removed. Construction of the new facility was delayed because of a series of cold fronts in late January and early February that kept the ground frozen. However, Manager Dan DeVeney still expects to be in the new store by June 1.

The Carpenter's Shop was selected as the name for the new store for several reasons. One reason is that many potential customers did not realize the store carried supplies that would be of interest to other churches. Another reason given for the change is that some confusion had arisen between our store and the college bookstore.

The new name suggested the design for the building. It is patterned after a stable or barn on the outside. Inside will be a larger first floor display area and a mezzanine.

Dedication is planned during General Conference week. The National WMS has made the new store a two-year project, with the first monies to be collected in August.



Staff photo by J. Rowsey

*Demolition of Claremont Avenue houses.*

## First Service in New Chapel

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Wednesday, Jan. 28, marked the first seminary worship service in the Ronk Memorial Chapel. The service was planned by the worship class under the direction of Dr. Charles Munson.

The service opened in the old chapel with singing, prayer, and reflections by Dr. Joseph R. Shultz, vice president of Ashland College. Students, faculty, and guests moved to the Ronk chapel while singing "Amazing Grace."

After assembling around the communion table, the Scripture passage from I Chronicles 29 was read.

Words of praise were expressed by Dr. Shultz, by Jim Legg, administrative director of CHERS, and by Bill Hess, student body president. The service closed with an act of oneness symbolized by the passing of two candles in opposite directions around the circle of participants.

Formal dedication of the chapel is planned to coincide with the 1976 General Conference in August.

## Men's Congress Planned

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The 1976 Men's Congress will be held on April 23-25, at the Winona Hotel at Winona Lake, Ind. Theme for the congress will be "Christ the Real Life," based on Colossians 3:1-17.

The gathering is sponsored by the Consortium for Evangelical Action, of which the Brethren Church is a member. Rev. Smith Rose is on the planning committee for the meeting.

Over 200 men are expected for the weekend of inspirational preaching, Bible study, prayer, praise, and sharing.

More information will be coming to pastors shortly. Programs may be obtained by writing to Rev. Rose, in care of The Brethren Church, 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.

## Seminary Workshops Announced

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The Christian Ministries Department of Ashland Theological Seminary has announced two unique seminars to be held on campus in April.

Dr. Larry Richards, author, father, professor, and president of Renewal Research Associates of Phoenix, Ariz., will conduct a one-day seminar on strengthening church families on April 22 from 8:30 to 5:00. Sessions will deal with basic issues in building strong families, available resources, examples of what other churches are doing, trends for the future, and the role of the Sunday School. Cost for the day is \$3.00.

Phil Lersch and Bonnie Munson from the staff of Brethren House, St. Petersburg, Fla., will hold a learning center workshop on April 28-29. The workshop is designed to demonstrate how the educational concept of the learning center will strengthen your abilities as a leader. Cost for this workshop is \$5.00 for one day and \$6.00 for two days.

For registration or more information, contact Dr. Richard Allison at Ashland Theological Seminary, 910 Center St., Ashland, OH 44805.



In any argument the man with the greater intelligence is always wrong, because he did not use his intelligence to avoid the argument in the first place.



## In Memory of Mrs. Ada Garber Drushal

Mrs. Ada Louella Garber Drushal was born in Trotwood, Ohio, July 16, 1881, and died at Lost Creek, Kentucky, December 29, 1975, at the age of 94.

When she was six months old her family moved to Fort Scott, Kansas, where she lived and attended the public schools. From 1903-1905 she attended Ashland College where she met George Emery Drushal of Homesville, Ohio. Following his graduation they were married in her family home in Fort Scott on September 7, 1905. Then they moved to eastern Kentucky in October of that year. After a brief stop in Winchester, Kentucky, they went to Lost Creek, Breathitt County, Kentucky, where they labored for the Lord ever since.

Mother Drushal was preceded in death by a son, Milyard (1917); a son, Gordon (1957); and by her husband, George (1958). She is survived by two daughters, Adah with whom she made her home, and Grace (Mrs. Amos Walters) of Cleveland, Ohio; and two others who have been as daughters to her over the years, Mildred (Mrs. Jimmie Rice) and Ada Lu (Mrs. Paul McAdams); and one son, J. Garber Drushal, Wooster, Ohio.

Mother Drushal worked faithfully for her Lord as wife, mother, Bible teacher, midwife, undertaker, herb-healer, a great prayer-warrior, and in many other ways at Lost Creek. For years she wrote a regular column entitled "My Diary" in **The Brethren Evangelist** which depicted day-by-day occurrences at Lost Creek. She visited the sick and bereaved and won souls for Jesus. She taught Bible classes on the front porches of people's homes. Up until the past two years she taught a children's Sunday School class.

She was treasurer and bookkeeper for the Riverside Christian Training School for many years and served in many other capacities. She always carried on a wide correspondence with former students and one of her greatest joys of the last few years would be when one would stop by to visit with her.

I can never express the appreciation I feel in my heart for Mother Drushal's life and ministry! Only Heaven has the full account of other lives touched by the Master's hand through her.

The third and fourth verses of one of Mother Drushal's favorite hymns seem to express her faith and joy in a victorious Christian life:

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come,  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far;  
And grace will lead me home!

When we've been there ten thousand  
years bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun!

—Rev. Harold E. Barnett

## Tribute to Rev. Myron Dodds



Rev. Myron W. (Mike) Dodds, 48, who had been pastor of the First Brethren Church, Flora, Indiana, for four months, died unexpectedly January 7, 1976, at the St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lafayette, Indiana.

Rev. Dodds was born April 16, 1927, at Falls City, Nebraska, to Rev. James Gilbert and Edna Micheal Dodds. His father pastored various Brethren churches. He was married July 31, 1948, to Audrey Smith, who survives.

His first pastorate was at the First Brethren Church of Burlington, Indiana. Prior to pastoring the Flora church, he served Brethren churches at Gratis, Ohio; Oak Hill, W. Va.; Derby, Kansas; and Bryan, Ohio.

He received his undergraduate degree from Wheaton College and his Master of Divinity degree from Gordon Divinity School, Boston, Massachusetts. He also received the Master of Arts in Education degree from the New Hampshire State Teacher's College. He was ordained into the ministry at the Firestone Park Brethren Church, Akron, Ohio, on September 7, 1952, by pastors Edwin Boardman, H. H. Rowsey, and his father.

Rev. Dodds had served as moderator of the Indiana District, as a member of the Indiana District Board of Christian Education, and as president of the Indiana District Ministerial Association. He also served on the Stewardship Committee of General Conference.

He had recently held positions as secretary and as president of the board of directors of the Brethren Publishing Company.

Surviving in addition to his wife are his mother, of Rockford, Illinois; two sons, Bruce David of Upland, Indiana, and Stephen Michael, at home; one daughter, Marcy, also at home; three sisters, Mrs. Marilyn Morrow and Mrs. Bertha Lee Burke, both of Rockford, Ill., and Mrs. Nadine King, Santa Maria, California; one brother, Gilbert, of West Chicago, Illinois; and one grandchild.

Funeral service was held at the First Brethren Church in Flora with Rev. Jack Smith and Rev. Paul Pepoon of Bryan, Ohio, and Rev. Kenneth Howard of the Fairless Hills Brethren Church, Levittown, Pennsylvania, officiating. Interment was made in the Sunset Memorial Garden, Rockford, Illinois.

—George Schuster





## In Honor of Regina Rowsey

Regina Rowsey, former missionary to Argentina, South America, passed away on December 30, 1975.

Born Regina Ruth Hendershot, she was the oldest of eight children of Ross H. and Leona Maust Hendershot of Berlin, Pennsylvania. Following graduation from Berlin-Brothersvalley High School, she worked in the Identification Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., for one year. While there she attended the Brethren Church, taught a Sunday School class, and sang in the church choir.

In 1951 she began her education at Ashland College and was engaged actively in the Gospel Team and a number of other organizations. After three years of college work, she taught in the elementary grades of Ashland County schools; then she completed her academic training and received her bachelor of science in education degree in 1956. In 1954 she served as national president of the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha. She attended the Kennedy School of Missions with her husband, John D. Rowsey, whom she married in December, 1953. They served in Argentina for 12 years.

A number of years ago when the Rowseys were home on furlough Regina was the speaker for the ministers' wives luncheon at General Conference. Jeannie had such poise, a quiet manner, and so much love for other people. This was my first meeting with her. Many of the things she said that day have stayed with me through these years.

As time passed we moved to Ashland and so did the Rowseys. Our husbands worked together, and their home is just around the corner from ours. Jeannie always put others before herself; for instance, a couple of years ago I was quite sick with an ear infection which ruptured the ear drum during the night. Since I was alone at the time, Jeannie took me to the doctor the next day and later picked up a prescription for me at the drug store. Much to my chagrin, I learned later that this was one of her very painful days—but not a word to let me know. That was Jeannie, putting others first!

As time passed, Jeannie went from place to place encouraging others who were ill. Some were complete strangers, but when a request came, she went anyway to bring them cheer in the Lord. This continued as long as she had strength to leave her home.

Before her illness she had worked for a time in the hospital. Later, as she was hospitalized several times, she was a winsome witness for

Christ and led a number of people to know the Lord Jesus as Savior. She became more and more like Jesus, continuing to praise Him—during all the pain—always giving thanks to Him. His nearness and His Word were her strength.

Jeannie was truly a missionary in the highest sense, in living out the call to serve. I cherish the time I was privileged to be with her and am thankful to have been touched over the years. I am sure many others share my experience with her and feel this way too.

—Mrs. Alice Ingraham

*A project has been established in the memory of Regina Rowsey. Contributions may be made to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church toward the Chapel at the Bible Institute in Argentina.*

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**CHLORA CHURCHMAN**, 83, Jan. 19. Member of Bryan (Ohio) First Brethren since 1909. Memorial service by Marlin McCann, pastor.

**DAN JOHNS**, 83, Nov. 11. Became baptized member of Burlington (Ind.) church at age 78. Services by Albert Curtright, pastor.

**MRS. FRANK LAMBERT**, 78, Dec. 26. Member of Sergeantsville (N.J.) church and WMS. Funeral services by William Gray, pastor.

**JEANETTE MASTERS**, 58, Jan. 4. Had been recording secretary of West Alexandria (Ohio) church and active in WMS. Memorial services by Herbert Gilmer, pastor.

**OAKLEY POLK**, 86, Nov. 29. Member of Burlington (Ind.) church. Services by Albert Curtright, pastor.

**ETHEL ROBBINS**, Jan. 4. Member of Elkhart (Ind.) First church. Services by Dale RuLon, pastor.

**OMER H. RODKEY**, 89, Dec. 13. Member of Burlington (Ind.) church. Services by Albert Curtright, pastor.

**ARTHUR W. ROHDE**, 70, Nov. 6. Had served as trustee and Sunday School secretary at Ardmore (Ind.) church. Services by Brian Moore, pastor.

**MARY SHERRILL**, 63, Jan. 7. Member of Ardmore (Ind.) church; had perfect Sunday School attendance for 14 years. Services by Brian Moore, pastor.

**CLIFFORD B. STEVENS**, 71, Nov. 22. Faithful in attendance and support of Vinco (Pa.) church. Funeral services by C. William Cole, pastor.

**HAZEL THURSBY**, Nov. 4. Member of Elkhart (Ind.) First church. Funeral services by Dale RuLon, pastor.

**MAUDE WEBB**, 89, Jan. 6. Had been a member of Goshen (Ind.) First church for many years; missionary to Argentina from 1911-1916.

**CORNELIUS (NEIL) WEDELL**, 92, Jan. 18. Charter member of Ardmore (Ind.) church and lifetime deacon. Services by Brian Moore, pastor.





*Mrs. Maude Fisher*

**ARDMORE (Ind.)**—First Brethren Church paid special tribute to Mrs. Maude “Grandma” Fisher during the worship service on Dec. 21. Mrs. Fisher celebrated her 100th birthday on Christmas Day.

The church presented Mrs. Fisher with a bouquet of long stemmed red roses and sang “Happy Birthday.” Pastor Brian Moore read one of three messages received from President Gerald Ford. The congregation also showered her with birthday cards.

Mrs. Fisher was a charter member of the Ardmore church and has remained faithful in her service and testimony throughout the years.

**BURLINGTON (Ind.)**—The annual Christmas eve candlelight service provided an appropriate conclusion to an eventful year at the Burlington church. A total of 238 attended the service of worship and praise.

During the year the church expanded its bus ministry, which resulted in additional boys and girls for the Sunday School and a need for more classrooms and teachers. An acre and a half of land were purchased in November.

A choir was also organized during the year under the direction of Mrs. Adda Sibert.

**MAURERTOWN (Va.)**—A week of revival and training in November produced changed lives in this church and its community.

Rev. Arden Gilmer spent the week of Nov. 16 addressing the congregation nightly and presenting the Laymen Alive training. Several first time commitments of faith and rededications were registered. Following the Laymen Alive training sessions, participants had opportunity to lead 18 others to faith in Christ.

The church plans to continue its outreach weekly.

**MEADOW CREST (Ind.)**—Dr. Wilfred R. Kent of Counseling Services in Fort Wayne, Ind., presented 12 lectures on 6 successive Monday nights at the Meadow Crest church, beginning Jan. 12. The subject of his lectures was, “Yes, You Can Have A Personality Change!”

The lectures were offered free-of-charge to the public, and the church provided its facilities at no cost. The lectures were recorded for sale at a later date.

Attendance at the first two lectures was about 180.

**BRADENTON (Fla.)**—As of Jan. 20 about 30 persons had donated labor toward construction

of the new Brethren church here. This assistance is being coordinated by Jim Payne, president of the National Laymen’s Organization of the Brethren Church.

Roofing of the structure was completed on Jan. 17.

Workers in January included a van load of men and women from Goshen (Ind.) First church and many Brethren who were spending the winter in Florida.

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The 1976 General Conference Choir will present the Gaither musical “I Love America” on Wednesday morning, Aug. 11. Church choirs are urged to present the musical in their local areas and send participants to General Conference. Persons interested in singing should contact Mrs. Doris Shultz (455 S. Countryside, Ashland, Ohio 44805), noting part sung.

A band, under the direction of Mr. James Lentz, will also perform throughout the week. Prospective band members should write to Mr. Lentz (405 N. Madison, Nappanee, Ind. 46550), indicating instrument played.

**MANTECA (Calif.)**—On Jan. 11, the First Brethren Church honored Ethel Aksland on the occasion of her 79th birthday. She was a charter member of the church when it was established in 1920.

## ORDINATIONS

**ROBERT FRENCH**, pastor of Eldorado (Ohio) church, Dec. 14, at West Alexandria (Ohio).

**WESTON ELLIS**, pastor of Oakville (Ind.) church, Jan. 4, at Winding Waters (Ind.).

## PASTORAL CHANGES

**STEVE ABE**, to Mt. Olive (Va.), Jan. 1976.

**HAROLD BARNETT**, from Lost Creek (Ky.) and Riverside Christian Training School to executive vice president and academic dean of Broadfording Christian College, Hagerstown, Md., Jan. 1976.

**C. WILLIAM COLE**, from Vinco (Pa.) to Wabash (Ind.), May 1976.

**JIM GEASLEN**, from minister of Christian education at Park Street (Ashland, Ohio) to Ohio Dist. camp and youth director, Jan. 1976.

**JIM NAFF**, from St. James (Md.) to St. Luke (Va.), March 1.

**CARL PHILLIPS**, from Highland (Pa.) to Vinco (Pa.), mid-June 1976.

**RON RITCHEY**, to Grace United Methodist Church, Hyndman, Pa.

**JAMES ROWSEY**, to St. James (Md.), mid-June 1976.

**TOM SHANNON**, to Alliance (Ohio) Church of the Brethren, Feb. 1976.

Seminary student **LEROY SOLOMON**, to assistant to pastor of Park Street (Ashland, Ohio), Jan. 1976.

**ED WEST**, to Tire Hill (Pa.) Church of the Brethren.





Staff photo by R. Waters

*Fred Burkey (left) presents check to John Rowsey on behalf of Brethren Youth.*

## Youth Present Project Monies

National BYC recently presented a check for \$3,371.28 to the Brethren Publishing Company. Dr. Fred Burkey, Director of Christian Education, made the presentation on behalf of the youth.

Of the total, \$2,250.00 was raised as part of the 1974-75 National BYC project and designated to assist in purchase of a collator for the print shop. The remainder was money reassigned from an earlier BYC project that did not materialize. That money is to be used for debt retirement.

Several thousand dollars are yet to be raised before the collator can be purchased, but the financial assistance from National BYC makes this acquisition much more feasible.

On behalf of the Brethren Publishing Company, we express our appreciation to the youth across the nation.

## Brethren Artifacts Sought

**ASHLAND (Ohio)** — An extensive display of Brethren artifacts, photographs, and other materials is planned for the 1976 General Conference. Bradley Weidenhamer, librarian at the Ashland Theological Seminary, is coordinating the display.

The exhibit is part of the emphasis on Brethren heritage planned for the 1976 conference to be held in Ashland, Aug. 9-13.

Of special interest are documents of historical value to the Brethren Church, photographs of church leaders and of conferences and other gatherings, and early publications.

If you have any items you think might be of interest for such a display, contact Rev. Weidenhamer at 631 Buena Vista, Ashland, OH 44805, or in care of the **Brethren Evangelist**.

## Calendar of Events

**MARCH 4-7**—Northern California Dist. Conference, Manteca.

**MARCH 13**—Ohio Conference, Delaware. Business meeting and goal setting.

**MARCH 22-23**—Management for Growth Seminar, Ashland County (Ohio) Joint Vocational School.

**APRIL 22**—Stronger Church Families Seminar with Larry Richards, Ashland Theological Seminary.

**APRIL 23-25**—Men's Congress, Winona Hotel, Winona Lake, Ind. Contact Rev. Smith Rose for detailed information.

**APRIL 23-25**—Southwest Dist. Conference, Tucson, Ariz.

**APRIL 28-29**—Learning Center Workshop with Phil Lersch and Bonnie Munson, Ashland Theological Seminary.

**MAY 4-6**—Pastors' & Wives' Retreats, Ohio Camp Bethany.

## Evangelist Index

Volume 97—1975

An index to the Brethren Evangelist for 1975 has been compiled by Bradley E. Weidenhamer, librarian at Ashland Theological Seminary, and published by the Brethren Publishing Company. Free copies are available to all who request them by **April 15, 1975**. (Cost will be 50 cents each thereafter.) To order your copy, complete and send this coupon (or a facsimile) to: Index, The Brethren Evangelist, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## World News in Brief

**ARLINGTON (Va.) (EP)** — Billy Graham an “addressee unknown”?

And in the place where he has been a long-time resident, Black Mountain, N.C.?

Dr. Carl F. H. Henry, retired editor of the fortnightly magazine *Christianity Today*, has found the answer is yes.

The Christmas card he mailed to the famed Southern Baptist evangelist was returned to him here from Black Mountain marked “addressee unknown.”

“Either America is tobogganing to radical secularity,” Dr. Henry noted wryly, “or the postal service is worse than anyone has a right to expect. Secular erosion of religious awareness is apparently worse in Black Mountain.”

Population of Black Mountain: 3,204.

**NEW YORK (EP News)** — Central Intelligence Agency Director William Colby has declined to order a halt to his agency’s use of American missionaries and foreign clergy in its intelligence-gathering operations.

In response to a request from two National Council of Churches executives that he do so, Colby wrote that the ecumenical organization’s position was “founded on a misunderstanding which would make such a directive inappropriate.”

Colby noted that a statement by the NCC’s Executive Committee which had been enclosed with the letter sent by the NCC General Secretary, referred to “extensive contact between CIA and American missionaries and foreign clergy abroad.” According to the CIA director, the intelligence agency “has very few such contacts.”

**MAINE (N.Y.) (EP News)**—The Rev. Donald LaRose, who disappeared mysteriously Nov. 4 after receiving threats by mail from “satanists,” was not abducted but left on his own with \$4,800 of his own money—\$3,500 of it in stock from Syracuse radio station WMHR, according to the New York State Police.

A private detective hired by the First Baptist Church to find their pastor, uncovered evidence that the minister left on his own. Reward money totalling \$15,000 was immediately withdrawn.

**LOS ANGELES (EP News)**—Every five hours, on average, a church, synagogue, or other religious building in the United States is destroyed by fire. One is damaged, in the same period.

According to David Works, chairman of the Religious Leaders Conference of the National Safety Council, fire is “by far one of the chief safety problems of churches throughout our land.”

Mr. Works believes fire safety “must undergo a new priority rating, since the church, being unoccupied for long periods, is so vulnerable to both arsonists and to undetected fire.”

From a different person’s view but along the same line as Holsinger, we have Will L. Spanogle’s thoughts as found in the **Progressive Christian** concerning Christian progression. He believed that we see a Christian progression in the writing of Hebrews (6:1)—“Therefore, laying aside the principles of the doctrines of Christ, let us go onto perfection.” Notice that it involves movement not a “standing-still” attitude. Spanogle believed that we as Christians should strive for perfection and that this striving is something that is going to involve a lifetime. It cannot be attained or reached by an individual or church wrapped up in self or tradition. Being involved in self and tradition, “such persons though perchance never claiming to be guardians of the church, are nevertheless, its greatest enemies, and by exerting their influence in favor of old opinions, however absurd, and against any innovations, however true, useful, or grand, Christ gave the church, which says: ‘Go into the world.’”<sup>8</sup>

Spanogle continued in this article to say that progression is all around us and it has been going on since the creation of the world by God. It’s something that cannot stand still—it must be in forward continual motion. He stated that in all areas of life everything is progressing and that if the church does not awaken to this, then it will be overrun by it. Progression is found in all industries and avenues of life. Spangole stated:

Progress is plainly manifest and to some extent in the church. She is moving like a ponderous body; dead weights are hanging on that make her wheels squeak, but see her move! Soon she will be under way; then we can only say to those who are clinging to the brakes, stand from under.<sup>9</sup>

There has been—as many Progressives advocate—too much tradition in the church and the excess needed to be cut off. The Progressives were being accused of all kinds of things in trying to do this (through changing beliefs held by the church fathers, etc.). Most of these accusations were untrue but Holsinger and Bashor (and others) saw the need to set their principles (in which they believed) on paper. It was during 1881 that they, Holsinger and Bashor, published 21 principles of the Progressives which stated briefly follow:

1. We hold the gospel as our only rule of faith and practice, and that in religion it should be the final and only standard of appeal. . . .
2. Upon the fundamental doctrine of religion, both of moral and revealed we agree with all the elements of our church, as also with the protestant world in general. . . .
3. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance toward God, and baptism into the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, are conditions of the pardon of past sins, and membership in the kingdom of God.
4. Triune immersion . . . followed by the laying on of hands.

(continued on next page)



## Progressivism (cont.)

5. The washing of the saint's feet; as an ordinance in the church. . . .
6. The Lord's Supper is a full meal to be taken in the evening of the day. . . .
7. The cup and loaf should be partaken of in connection with or after the supper. . . .
8. The salutation of the Holy Kiss or kiss of charity, as an ordinance of the church. . . .
9. Anointing of the sick with oil in the name of the Lord. . . .
10. The doctrine of non-resistance. . . .
11. The taking of oaths, and affiliation with, and membership in oath-bound secret associations, is contrary to the teaching of the Gospel. . . .
12. That in times of prayer and prophecy Christian women should have their heads covered as an act of religious devotion. . . .
13. That nonconformity to the world in conduct and dress is essential to the life and prosperity of the church of Christ. . . .
14. Education of our youth is essential to the enlightenment and prosperity of the rising generation. . . .
15. Sunday schools are in this age an important nursery and auxiliary to the church. . . .
16. Prayer meetings, Bible classes, and general, foreign and home missionary work, properly belong to the work of the church. . . .
17. Protracted meetings, and evangelistic work is both apostolic and right, and is the life and upholding of churches everywhere. . . .
18. They who preach the gospel shall live by the gospel meets the approval of the progressive party everywhere. We favor a supported ministry and labor for it.
19. In church government we hold that the majority shall rule. . . .
20. District and Annual Conferences may be held for social advantages, and for consultation upon general methods of church work, and to beget a unity and concern of action in all important matters. . . . Annual Meeting and District Meeting should only give advice upon a case, and that advice should only be for the one time and trouble.
21. Every paper should be published with its columns open to a polite inter-change of thought upon all subjects of importance, and the correction of misstatements by others made publicly. . . .<sup>10</sup>

H. H. Meyers also wrote an article on his thoughts concerning the Brethren, in which he believed that the progressive principles contain nothing new—rather that it is a new name being given to an old class of men. He stated that a progressive “is a man who holds to all that the gospel teaches, and refuses to accept, as the spirit of the gospel the commandments of men.”<sup>11</sup> There was this constant search for a definition of a

progressive, until as mentioned above, principles were written down.

I have tried to state various viewpoints in the area of progressive or progressivism in the hopes that some picture could be made and mood felt occurring during this period of time in our church history. Holsinger stated the motto of the progressives to be—“Go on and seek to know the Lord, and practice what you know.”<sup>12</sup> This could be observed in the several articles reported in this paper. However I feel that today we have to a large degree discontinued the latter half of this motto and I'm not quite so sure that we, as a church, are diligently seeking God's will for our lives as we ought to be. We should be constantly in a forward progressive motion toward a closer walk with our Lord Jesus Christ. We must move outward and onward to new frontiers to glorify God. Progressivism must be a “growing” thing.

### FOOTNOTES

- 1 A. T. Ronk, *History of the Brethren Church* (Ashland: Brethren Publishing Co., 1968), p. 502.
- 2 J. M. Meyers, *Gospel Preacher*, Vol. IV, No. 6, (February 7, 1882), p. 1.
- 3 J. W. Beer, *Progressive Christian*, Vol. III, No. 42, (November 11, 1881), p. 1, column 4.
- 4 J. W. Beer, *Progressive Christian*, Vol. III, No. 42 (November 11, 1881), p. 1.
- 5 *Ibid.*
- 6 Henry Holsinger, *Progressive Christian*, Vol. III, No. 10, p. 2, col. 1.
- 7 Henry Holsinger, *Progressive Christian*, Vol. III, No. 11, p. 2, col. 3.
- 8 Will L. Spanogle, *Progressive Christian*, Vol. III, No. 26 (November 22, 1881), p. 2, col. 4.
- 9 *Ibid.*
- 10 Ronk, *History of the Brethren Church*, pp. 135-141.
- 11 H. H. Meyers, *Progressive Christian*, Vol. III, No. 42 (November 22, 1881), p. 1.
- 12 Henry Holsinger, *Progressive Christian*, Vol. III, No. 10, p. 2.

*This article on Progressivism is the last in the series of digests of papers written by students in a class at the Ashland Theological Seminary conducted by Rev. Richard Allison.*

While in Washington, D.C., this year,  
visit

**WASHINGTON BRETHERN CHURCH**  
Corner of Branch & Q Street, S.E.

Sunday services:  
10, 11, and 7:15

Wednesday evening:  
7:30

For further information or assistance, write:

Pastor Bob Keplinger  
Washington Brethren Church  
3140 Q Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020



# world relief

*Shortly after our treasurer, George Kerlin, had forwarded \$4000 to the World Relief Commission, he received this reply— which really is for all of you “givers” and “pray-ers.”*

January 8, 1976

Dear Brother George:

How can we ever adequately express our gratitude to you for your tremendous vote of confidence and your wonderful gift to help us provide “food for the body and food for the soul” to desperately needy people overseas. I know our words of appreciation would be totally inadequate, and that you, like we, await the ultimate in appreciation, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant.” In the meantime, thank you so much for caring enough to share and **be assured of our promise of good continued stewardship in the Saviour’s name.**

At this Christmas time of joy and giving, we remember the greatest gift of all time, Jesus Christ. Thousands of people around the world have come to know Him and the real meaning of Christmas during 1975 thanks to your help.

Let me give you one example of what your gift has enabled us to do in your name and in Jesus’ name:

In Korea, children and adults alike are getting a new lease on life thanks to drugs provided to tuberculosis patients at the Soonchun Clinic operated by Presbyterian missionary, Betty Linton.

SOONIE is one such patient. When she was 10 years old, she was given up for dead. A beggar girl in the streets of Seoul, she remembers no family . . . no friends . . . nobody who cared. Local authorities placed her in an orphanage, but she fell ill with TB and began to waste away.

Soon she was little more than bones covered by a thin wrapping of skin. Soonie was so malnourished, she could not even straighten her legs. Such was her condition when a missionary saw her, and arranged for her treatment at Soonchun.

Today, 13-year-old Soonie is vastly improved. Her TB is coming under control, thanks to WRC-supplied drugs. WRC paid for Soonie’s surgery at the Kwang ju Christian Hospital, but she faces a long road to recovery. A heart condition has been discovered, and she has many more months to spend in the clinic and hospital before she is cured.

But Soonie got much more than medical care at Soonchun. There, through witnessing by fellow patients and through Bible studies, she first heard about Jesus and became a follower. Now Soonie is a radiant Christian who knows the real meaning of Christmas.

Soonie is alive today because people cared enough to give to WRC and its Korean programs. But there are many other “Soonie’s” in Korea . . . Thailand . . . Bangladesh . . . Ethiopia . . . Mali . . . Niger . . . Honduras . . . and Haiti who are also alive because of your help.

**For all the Soonie’s, thank you!**

Yours in the JOY of His Service,  
(Signed) Everett S. Graffam  
Executive Vice-President  
WORLD RELIEF COMMISSION

*The next issue will feature the ministry of World Relief. Be looking for pictures and reports of my fact-finding trip to India, Bangladesh, and Thailand.—Phil Lersch*



# signal lights

**BIBLE THEME: Serving God**

**PROJECT: Medical Outreach in India**

*April Program  
written by  
Alberta Holsinger*

Call to Worship: The flowers that grow,  
The birds that sing,  
All help to show  
That Christ is King.  
You have feet to go,  
A voice to sing;  
You, too, can show  
That Christ is King.

## Mission Time

# First Glimpse of India

"Look!" said Larry. "There's India!"

"Fasten your seatbelts," instructed the stewardess. She stopped at Larry's seat to help him.

"Are we almost there?" he asked. "Are we almost to Rajahmundry?"

"Yes," replied the stewardess. "The pilot is talking to the control tower now and preparing to land."

In a few minutes the big jet had touched down and come to a stop.

Larry looked out the window. "Why, it looks a lot like the airport in Cleveland! I thought an airport in India would be different."

"You will find many things in Rajahmundry just like in the cities at home. You will also find many different things," said Father.

"Let's make a list," suggested Mother, "of the things we find similar to those at home and a list of those that are different."

"Have fun in India, Larry," said the stewardess.

"Oh, I will! I know I will," answered Larry. "Goodby."

Larry stepped from the plane. "The airport will be the first thing on the similar list," he said.

Father got their baggage, called a taxi, and soon they were on their way to the hotel.

Larry sat next to the window. "So many of the people are dressed just as we are," he said as the taxi left the airport.

"Yes," agreed Mother, "but look at the women. Most of them are wearing saris—that long piece of material draped around them."

"And the men," said Father, "see how differently many of them are dressed?"

"The children look so sad," said Larry, "and thin."

"Many of them have never had enough to eat," Mother told him.

"Never?" questioned Larry.

Mother shook her head.

"Don't they have mothers and fathers?" he wondered.

"Many of them do," said Father, "but the people are very poor. They do not have money to buy enough food for their large families."

"What do the children do?" asked Larry.

"Many of them beg as that boy is doing," said Father, pointing to a boy on the sidewalk. "Others go through the streets and alleys looking for food wherever they can find it."

"When there's no other way to get food," added Mother, "they steal."

"But that's wrong," exclaimed Larry.

"Yes," said Mother, "it is wrong, but what would you do if you were very, very hungry?"

The taxi stopped in front of the hotel. Larry, Mother, and Father got out. The driver took their baggage from the trunk and set it on the sidewalk. Father paid the taxi driver, who said, "Thank you."

A boy came from the hotel to carry their baggage. As they followed him inside Larry said, "I wish I could help the children of India."

"Perhaps you can," Mother replied. "We'll talk about it when we get to our rooms."

## Bible Story

# The Fishermen Serve God

"Come with me, Peter," urged Andrew. "We have found the Christ, the Savior God promised to send."

Peter went with his brother. He listened to Jesus speak. As he returned home he thought, "Yes, this is the Christ."

One day a short time later Peter and Andrew, who were fishermen, were by the lake. They were



Bible Story (continued)

getting their nets ready to go fishing when Jesus came walking down the beach. He watched the men as they let their nets down into the water and pulled them up again.

Soon He called to them. "Peter! Andrew! Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."

They knew Jesus meant He wanted them to help Him tell others about God. They pulled their boat onto the beach, spread their nets on the land to dry, and went with Jesus.

They heard Him tell of God's great love. They saw Him perform many miracles. They saw Him give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, health to the sick. They saw Him feed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. They saw

Him still the storm and walk on the water.

When Jesus returned to heaven they remembered the things they had heard and seen. Now they told of God's great love and they performed many miracles in the name of Jesus.

The people listened, and they watched. They believed that Jesus was the promised Savior. They believed because of the things they heard and saw. Just as Jesus had promised, Peter and Andrew became fishers of men.

You can serve God in this way. You can tell your family and friends of Jesus. You can be kind and helpful and loving. People will listen and watch. If you are a good follower of Jesus, they will know He is the Savior. Yes, you, too, can be a fisher of men.

(Based on John 1:40-42, Matthew 4:18-20, and other passages.)



SISTERHOOD

Dear Sisters,

I know that some of your Sisterhood groups have been having interesting and exciting programs, activities, and projects this year. A few have written to tell me about their groups, and I have been so glad to hear about them.

I would like to ask a favor of each one of your groups this spring. I am tentatively planning to use a future **Evangelist** article to give ideas and helpful hints for the use of all SMM groups. This could be beneficial for groups just starting, or those having problems, or groups who just need fresh ideas. (I would like to heard from each of you, even if you think your group has not done anything worth sharing! It may be better than what another group has thought of.) Maybe you have had some special programs or Bible studies or parties or projects you would like to share.

Simply tell me what you have done. You don't need to send a long and detailed description, or even put it in paragraph form—just send an explained list. I will need to have this information by May 1 at the latest. This should give you a few meetings to work on it together. Your secretary should send it to me at 227 College Avenue in Ashland, Ohio 44805.

It is important for us to share our groups with each other. Sisterhood is a part of the body of Christ, and each local society is a part of the whole Sisterhood body. II Thessalonians 5:11 says we are to "encourage one another and build each other up" as part of Christ's body. Our local groups should encourage and share with other groups in the body. I encourage you to get together with another SMM society in your area to share on a group-to-group basis. This could be for a time of growing and learning together or maybe just for fun as Christians being together.

All of our societies will be able to get together in August for a time when we can sing, pray,



share, and learn from each other and some special people. I hope we can have a record-breaking attendance at General Conference this year. That week is our big chance for fellowship and encouragement as the verse in II Thessalonians says. I hope you will be able to join us then. But before conference, we can also share by reading about each others' successful endeavors. I hope you will all contribute. This is one way you may be able to help another group and participate in the growth of the Sisterhood body.

While the Brethren Church is concentrating on church growth, the Sisterhood of the church should also be growing. We have had new groups started this year, and they need nurturing. Your ideas can help them continue to grow. Hopefully more new groups can be started soon, with your help. The purpose of this listing is not merely to increase the number of societies, but to give strength to the spiritual life of each girl and woman who participates. Philippians 2:4 says, "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." I hope that you will help others grow by sharing with us all by writing and by attending conference. God bless you all.

In His Service,  
Nancy Ronk



*April Program for Juniors  
written by  
Pauline Benshoff*

## Greater Love Hath No Man

This month let us have an Easter candlelight service. (You will need seven candles for the front of the room with one of the seven larger than the other six. Also provide a small candle for each person present at your meeting. You may wish to invite your WMS ladies to join with you and make it a church event.) Place the tallest candle in the center of the table or candelabra and arrange three candles on each side. The central candle represents Christ, and the other six represent the days of the last week in the life of Christ.

In further preparation for the program:

- Assign the scripture references ahead of time, then have them read straight through like a story.
- It would be nice for the leader and others to wear choir robes as they do their part on the program.
- Pray, plan, and be ready for a different evening.

**Prelude:** I Gave My Life for Thee (played softly)

**Call to Worship (Leader):** "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God." "For all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." "If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."

**Hymn:** Tis Midnight and on Olive's Brow (lights out at close of this hymn)

**Leader** (lights central candle while speaking): "And Jesus said: 'I am the Light of the World; he that followeth after me shall have the light of Life.' For the past week we have been thinking of the events in the closing days of Jesus, realizing the strength of the love which He bore for us—a love so great that it caused Him to give up that which in all hearts is held dearest: life itself. And so, symbolically we shall portray what happened to the 'Light of the World' from Palm Sunday through Good Friday, each candle representing a day in the last week of Christ's life. 'Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.'"

**Solo:** The Old Rugged Cross

**First Reader** (comes forward; lights first candle from central candle and reads):

**Palm Sunday, the Day of Triumph:** Mark 11: 1-4, 7; Matthew 21: 8-11; Mark 11: 11 (at conclusion of the reading return to your seat)

**Second Reader** (follows same procedure, lighting the second candle):

**Monday, the Day of Authority:** Mark 11: 15-17; Matthew 21: 14-16; Mark 11: 18, 19

**Third Reader** (follow same procedure):

**Tuesday, the Day of Controversy:** Mark 11: 27; Mark 12: 28-31; John 12: 20-32; Matthew 26: 1-5; Luke 22: 3-6

**Fourth Reader:**

**Wednesday, the Day of Agony:** Matthew 26: 36-46

**Fifth Reader:**

**Thursday, the Day of Trial:** Luke 23: 1-24

**Sixth Reader:**

**Friday, the Day of Crucifixion:** Matthew 27: 35-45

**Duet:** Why Should He Love Me So?

**Leader:** Oh yes, Jesus paid the price for your sins and mine on the cross, and He was buried. But as He said, He came forth from the grave and lives forevermore. And because He lives, I too shall live. So Easter would not be complete without the events that led up to that great Easter morning. But let us never forget that we serve a living Christ, not a dead one. May our lives be lived in true dedication to the fact that Christ was victorious over death. Let us pray.

**Prayer:**

**Dedication Service:** Each person present will come forward and light her candle from the candle representing Christ, and as she lights her candle, say a prayer to God to help her dedicate herself to give the Light of the World to those in darkness around her.

**Hymn:** Living for Jesus (while all the candles are lit; sing just the first stanza)

**Close with the SMM benediction:**



*April Program for Seniors  
"Developing Spiritual Gifts"  
written by Ruth Barber*

## Faith

In November we began discussion of how the use of spiritual gifts helps our church grow. I asked you to list talents that members of your Sisterhood have that can help the church grow.

Did you keep the list with your minutes for that meeting? If so, look at it for a moment. Perhaps you can add to your list now.

During the last three meetings we've talked about developing the gifts of prayer, Bible study, and witnessing. Perhaps these aren't really gifts; maybe we should call them talents, for they can certainly be developed. Each of these plays a large part in the gift we're discussing this month—faith.

In I Corinthians 12, Paul tells us that faith is given to believers by the Holy Spirit. You know that if you have asked Jesus to be a part of your life, then the Holy Spirit lives within you, giving gifts you need to live your Christian life.

The Bible tells us that "without faith it is impossible to please God," so you can see how important this gift is. The Bible also tells us that "faith is the evidence of things not seen."

We operate on faith almost every day—not necessarily faith in God, but faith in people, furniture, and machines. When you make a dental appointment you have faith that the dentist will be in his office at the appointed hour. You trust chairs to hold you. Every time you step into an elevator you believe that it will work. We all understand that people get sick and miss appointments, chairs break, and elevators malfunction. However, we still plan our lives around putting faith in each of these. Why is it so difficult to have faith in God's laws, plans, and promises? How can we develop this gift of faith?

God's Word plays a major role. Paul says that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." The more you read, study, memorize, and meditate on God's Word, the more your faith will increase. D. L. Moody once said, "I prayed for faith and thought that some day faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, 'Now faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' I had closed my Bible and prayed for faith. I now opened my Bible and began to study, and faith has been growing ever since."

Where can you hear and study the Word? One place is in Sunday School. Sometimes we get the idea that Sunday School is for kids, and that we

have outgrown it. But girls, this is one hour of prepared, concentrated Bible study each week. Where else can you have a free study course that will grant you eternal benefits?

How can you get more out of this hour? Take your Bible with you, and resolve to use it each Sunday during the teaching time. Ask the Lord to help you understand and remember what is taught. Look up each reference your teacher uses. Take notes, and underline important passages. Try to organize the lesson in your mind. Remember your teacher in prayer, and thank him or her for taking the time to prepare the lesson. And remember, what you gain from the lesson is up to you. The teacher can teach, but it's up to the students to learn.

Go to Sunday School with an air of expectancy. God will honor your efforts to study His Word, and your faith will increase. Try it this month and see.

Next month we will continue our discussion of faith and ways of developing this gift.

(Close this portion of the meeting by having each girl pray silently, asking the Lord to give her a desire to study His Word so that her faith might increase.)

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### Thoughts for Laymen (from page 34)

It certainly is too bad that sometimes God has to allow a disaster in a person's life before he realizes his own human limitations and turns to the One who can give him the help and strength he needs. It is even more sad when a person goes through a tragedy and still does not turn to the Lord as a result of the disaster.

Questions for thought and/or discussion:

1. In the work of the church, do you think that it is important for each of us to realize the limits of our capabilities before we decide in what area of the work we will engage?

2. Should we go ahead and accept a job in the church that we may not feel quite up to and then rely upon the Lord to give us the ability to carry out the work?



*April Inspirational  
prepared by  
J. Perry Deeter*

## *When the Knowledge of Ignorance is Wisdom*

**by Harold Sala**

The philosopher worded it this way: "He that knows not and knows not that he knows not is a fool; but he that knows not and knows that he knows not is a wise man." This is another way of saying that it is wise to know your limitations. If a man knows his strength and the limits of his capabilities, he is twice as wise as the man who knows only his strength.

Most of the financial wizards of our time have been men who are certainly outstanding in their endeavors; but even more than this, they are men who have learned the limits of their capabilities and then wisely have sought help and advice. Most of us run into difficulties when we do not know what to do, whether in matters of finance or other areas of everyday life; but we will not always face the fact that we need advice and help.

One of the greatest leaders the world has ever known spent forty years learning this lesson. The first forty years of his life he thought, in the typical fashion of youth, that he had the answers and that he had the world by the tail. He spent the next forty years of his life realizing how little he actually knew. It was during this period that he learned his limitations and looked to God for the strength he lacked. In the next forty years God made Moses the greatest leader of Old Testament Scripture.

Somebody expressed it like this: "Moses spent his first forty years thinking he was somebody; the next forty years learning he was nobody; and the last forty years finding out what God can do with somebody who thinks he is nobody." That is a rather homespun observation, but the means of successful living have not changed much in the last thirty-five hundred years.

The first steps toward mastering life must be those of realizing our failure in conquering ourselves and then seeking the divine help we need from a gracious Savior to do what we cannot do in ourselves. In other words, we must learn our limitations and then seek the divine help we need beyond our point of failure.

The great industrialist R. G. LeTourneau faced a financial crisis that made him realize his limitations. He was struggling with a business that was gradually folding. LeTourneau worked hard. He battled and fought, but he seemed to be fighting a losing struggle. He came to a point where

he was willing to turn over his business to God. He proved his sincerity by beginning to give a tenth of his income to God, even though his business was near bankruptcy. In time his struggling business took root, and he became one of America's most successful industrialists.

The problem that most of us have is getting to the point where we are willing to admit our limitations and seek the help we need in mastering our weakness. To know our weakness is actually our greatest strength. For instance, take a look at Tom Brown. Tom is a hypothetical name, but his experience has been demonstrated in countless real-life situations. Tom has a good job with a growing company. He has always worked hard and been a good father. He has always prided himself in being a good American and has worked hard for the causes he believed in. Sundays always found Tom on the golf course or on the lake—that is, except on Easter and Christmas Sunday, when Tom joined his wife in services at their church. Tom really was not very persuasive, but he kept telling himself he had taken care of his obligation to God because he lived as well as the next fellow.

But when Tom's car was smashed in a head-on collision and he had to spend the next six weeks flat on his back, he had a lot of time to think through his life. It was then—when he realized that he had been only a heartbeat from eternity—that Tom came to the place where he would admit he had given God no part in his life.

Tom did something about it. He realized his limitation in the spiritual realm and became a Christian by receiving Christ as his personal Savior.

God sometimes allows the thunderbolts of disaster to come in order to make us learn our limitations. But to all of us He says, "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Cor. 12:9). One last question: Do you know your limitations? Make faith in Christ your guideline for living!

\*From GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING by Harold J. Sala. Copyright 1972 by Baker Book House Company and used by permission.

*Laymen's meeting discussion thoughts and questions on page 33.*



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# YOU CAN HELP

1975

*FAITH BUDGET  
MET*



**\$272,000**

*YOU CAN  
DO IT AGAIN*

**1976 Goal  
\$277,000**

*GO IN FAITH  
TO SUPPORT*

*5 FIELDS  
9 MISSIONARY FAMILIES*

**Missionary Board  
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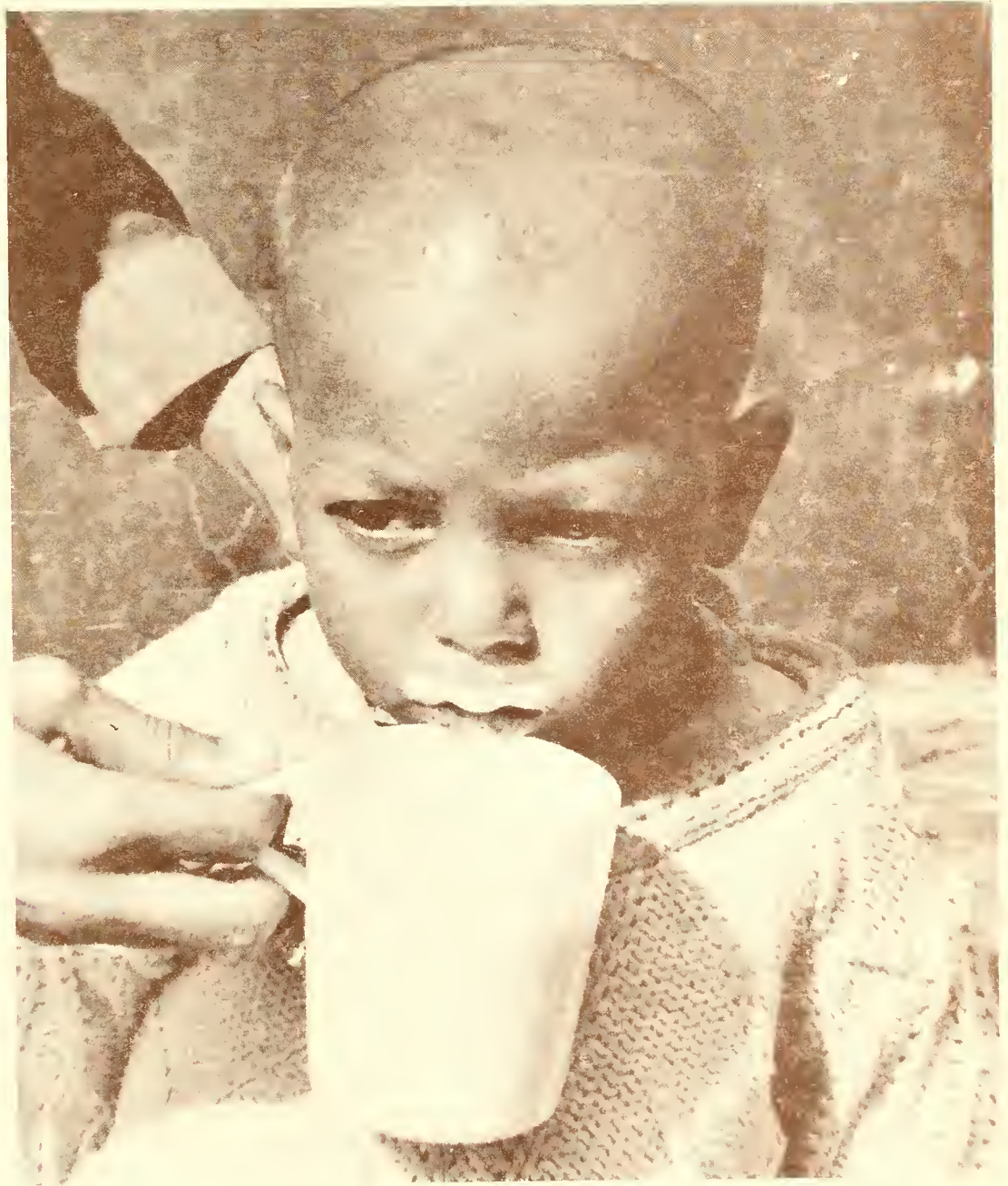
# *The Brethren* EVANGELIST

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*April 1976*

*Brethren giving puts  
milk in the cup . . .  
and hope in the heart!*

APRIL  
IS  
WORLD  
RELIEF  
MONTH

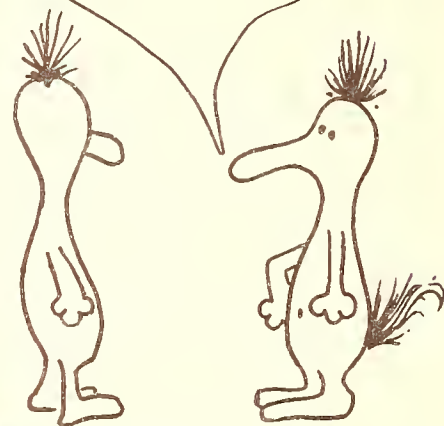


*Is this your hand?*

*(see page 8)*



I used to feel like  
a stale potato chip  
until I went to the  
Brethren Bookstore . . .



I found a book that promised me when everyone else  
has left me there is still someone who cares.

I bought a record by a group of young people who  
were thanking God for anything instead of revolting  
against everything.

I noticed everyone in the store wore a confident  
yet peaceful smile.

It looks like they've found a regular customer—  
good things are hard to find anymore . . .

. . . and besides, my friend Humpty Dumpty says  
the place really cracks him up.



## THE BRETHREN BOOKSTORE

524 College Ave.

Ashland, Ohio 44805



# The Brethren EVANGELIST

April 1976

Vol. 98

No. 4

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MEMBER  EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

## editors' notes

Dear Reader,

In this issue you'll find the first installment of a new feature in the Brethren Evangelist—a Bible study (see p. 14). The emphasis of these studies will be on applying the Word to daily life, the most important approach (we think) for Brethren celebrating their heritage of hope. And we have several other items of interest in this issue (as you will note above) in addition to our regular features.

One feature you won't find (now or in the future) is Manfred Holck's "Church Finance" column. Mr. Holck has found it necessary to discontinue this phase of his ministry through Church Management, Inc.

We have appreciated the kind remarks many of you have expressed vocally. We were also happy to receive the written comments from Mrs. Becknell so that we could share them with you, too (see p. 20).

We pray that you will be blessed anew as you encounter the Easter season.

John & Ron



# Margaret

*by Ora Ann Ernst*

"For her uncommon skill in blending fruits of three noble professions into one humanitarian enterprise," a native of Washington County, Md., has gained state and national citations.

Covering a period of 23 years, Margaret Ella Lowery—who was "born and bred" in our county—has combined roles of teacher, nurse, and missionary in a determination to serve people of Southern Appalachia in Kentucky. For those unique, dedicated efforts, Margaret was presented a Distinguished Service Alumni Award this year by her alma mater, Towson State College. Several years previously, the western Maryland native was honored with the National 4-H Alumni Award and feted at the annual 4-H Congress held in Chicago.

But it was only recently that Miss Lowery left the hills of her adopted "old Kentucky home" to return to Washington County for a visit and an interview. At that time it became apparent that the humble humanitarian wears her honors lightly, being totally concerned with her "boys and girls" in Krypton, a mountain village in southeastern Kentucky.

## **Ghost mining town**

Krypton, Margaret explains, was a "ghost mining town" when she arrived there in 1953. No more than 100 people lived then in the community that once had claimed a coal mining population of 1,800.

The Krypton Bible Center had been founded by a missionary in 1915 when the only access to the little mountain town was by railway. The isolated center developed primarily as a Bible boarding school, offering elementary grades and two years of high school. But, as roads and public school transportation came along, the need for an educational facility dwindled, and the character of the institution changed.

"Now it is a day center for church-related activities," says Margaret, who directs an all-around program aimed mostly at developing leadership among youth.

Sunday School, Bible schools, and Bible study classes are mixed with camping pro-

grams, 4-H, Cub Scouts, and Homemakers clubs to make what Margaret calls a "program for Christian living."

The huge church is shared with all groups who need it for personal or congregational activities; many funerals and weddings, says Margaret, are held there.

Margaret lives in the "parsonage" and, because of the energy crisis, holds club meetings and classes in her residence which can be heated more economically than the large building.

That same energy crisis may again change the character of Krypton. Some coal mining is being resumed, and the population shows signs of growing. And, in the future, Margaret may be able to see her young folks stay in their home community.

"A sad part of my life at Krypton is seeing the young people—whom I have helped train—grow up and leave the community," she says.

"But I do get satisfaction in seeing them achieve. I recall one boy, who grew up in bad circumstances, who became superintendent of our Sunday school, then went on to Berea and to the University of Cincinnati and now has a good productive position.

"My greatest joy is working with these people, helping them achieve, helping them think things out and put their thoughts into action," she adds.

## **Perfect teacher**

Margaret can be called a perfect teacher, in that she obscures her own role. Starting with the tiniest Cub Scout, she stresses pupil self-reliance. The teacher is prepared and ready to assist, but her emphasis is on developing independence and responsibility in her young friends.

"Right now we have a tremendous sewing program going on for both girls and boys," she says. "We have seven sewing machines, and first I teach their parts and care. This year, 18 Cub Scouts made their own tote bags. Older boys made shirt and pants outfits, and three of them got so interested that they crocheted vests, using a Simplicity pattern. The boys' garments were featured



“My greatest joy in working with these people . . . is helping them think things out and then put their thoughts into action.”

in a special exhibit at the Kentucky State Fair.”

Girls, too, have made their mark. Two Krypton lasses were selected to represent their county in a style show at the University of Kentucky and then at the State Fair. Altogether in 1975, 55 of Margaret's boys and girls made garments of some kind.

Food and nutrition studies are also high in the educational programs.

“I try to train the boys and girls to do everything themselves. When we have refreshments at a meeting, even the youngest ones prepare, serve, and clean up,” says Margaret, who slips in etiquette tips in the process.

Other favorite projects now include macrame, string art, and basics of embroidery. Teen-agers and adults have their special classes in crafts, home economics, and Bible, and these older students in turn serve as leaders for the younger ones.

## From birth to death

Margaret's life has become a part of the lives of her village “family.” She serves her mountain folk from birth to death and ministers to them through all their “ups and downs.”

The north fork of the Kentucky River flows by Krypton and the little town gets flooded frequently—and isolated. “Sometimes the torrents descend; creeks and rivers rage; roads are washed out; evacuation of homes is necessary; and programs are disrupted,” Margaret reports.

The tireless worker has been commended publicly for her effective work in reconstruction periods that follow the many floods.

“I've had a lot of hardships, discouragements, and disappointments,” Margaret admits, “but I just don't let them upset me. I try to pick out the possibilities and potentials and work on them.”

When Margaret Lowery grew up in Washington County she never dreamed of becoming a part of life in the Bluegrass State. She was born near Dam No. 4, the oldest of 11



*Miss Lowery types a letter (above) to one of her many prayer supporters. Below, she exhibits some of the garments made by her 4-H youngsters.*



*This article is reprinted by permission of the Hagerstown (Md.) DAILY MAIL. It was originally published under the title, “Countian Blends Three Professions in Kentucky Mountains.”*



“I’ve had a lot of hardships, discouragements, and disappointments, . . . but I try to pick out the possibilities and potentials and work on them.”

children of Otho and Beulah Lowery, and early felt a responsibility toward her brothers and sisters. Her education began in the old Woburn and Fairplay schools and continued for two years in Broadway Girls High School and for two years more in the “new” Hagerstown High. She graduated from Towson in 1930 when the institution was a two-year normal school, and she then entered a 14-year career of teaching in her home area.

Her first assignment was the one-room Chapel Woods School where Margaret can remember facing 48 pupils, spread through eight grades. In her second year, at the same school, enrollment went up to 56, with 17 of those pupils in the first grade.

Other local teaching positions were on the faculty of Washington Street, Fountaindale, Mapleville, and Boonsboro schools.

Meanwhile, Margaret went to summer school while teaching, and in 1939 she received her bachelor’s degree from Harrisonburg State Teachers College, the forerunner of Madison. At the same time, she managed to continue “helping all around” with her family, who were tenant farmers. Margaret had grown up doing farm chores like milking, shocking wheat, and following the drill and corn planter.

The Lowerys belonged to the St. James Brethren Church, and the oldest daughter recalls driving to services in a surrey with fringe on top. She has a specific memory of the day she drove to church for a “program practice” and the horse bit her.

## **Call to mission work**

Through the years Margaret had been feeling an “urge” to go to South America for mission work of her church. When the time came that she felt her family no longer needed her, she entered Washington County Hospital School of Nursing and became an R.N. in 1947.

Then, Margaret recalls, “things opened up.” She received a letter requesting her to come as director of nursing instruction in Samaritan Hospital in Ashland, Ohio. Filling that position she further prepared herself for mission work by attending Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary.

Then one night something happened that was to determine the direction of the rest of her life. The would-be missionary was sitting in the Brethren Church of Park

Street, Ashland, when Rev. Clayton Berkshire, director of the Brethren mission board, said, “Margaret, why don’t you go to Krypton?”

“I had never seen Krypton,” Margaret remembers, “so I just laughed at the idea. But the thought stuck and a month later I had to call Rev. Berkshire to find out more about it.”

So the feet of the teacher-nurse-missionary were turned toward the Cumberland Mountains of Kentucky. And they have traveled ever since, “up the hollows and over the ridges,” carrying a message of love.

“I never get lonesome,” says Margaret, “there is too much to do, and it’s exciting to work with children.”

## **Helpers along the way**

Helpers have joined in the mission. Summer workers come to lend their talents and give their time. This past July, 12 young people from Margaret’s home church at St. James journeyed to Krypton with two leaders, Urla and Connie Jamison, to help with a week of double sessions of vacation Bible school.

“We all loved it,” says Urla, “and would like to go every summer. We ‘camped’ in Margaret’s big house that has four bedrooms and an enclosed upper porch with cots. And we had a great fellowship with the young people of Krypton.”

Seminary students and ordained ministers devote vacation time to the center. Last year, a Presbyterian minister from nearby Buckhorn directed the production of a religious folk opera, “It’s Cool in the Furnace,” that involved 35 Krypton young people and was heard by an audience of 1,000.

“Brethren and non-Brethren” across the nation send money and supplies to Krypton Bible Center. Special truckloads of clothing and household articles go regularly from St. James Brethren Church, and their contents are sorted and sold for a nominal fee at a community sale. Patterns and fabrics are donated for young club members to use in their projects.

Margaret has been likened to a “queen bee” in a busy hive of activity.

“I’ll keep trying to see that the best honey is produced,” she says, “and I plan to keep working here as long as I am able.”



## **Five W's of World Relief**

From the beginning of the work here at St. Petersburg, even as far back as the call for us to come to Florida, the counsel that we have returned to most often is found in the fourth chapter of Exodus. In Moses' moments of doubt whether he could handle the job of leading the children of Israel out of Egypt, God gave this advice: "What do you have in your hand?"

He didn't ask Moses for the qualities of leadership possessed by others throughout history; nor did he ask Moses to look at someone else he knew and try to be like him. He asked: "What do you have at hand?"

This guidance has constantly come to mind as we pray and plan how to reach those around us with God's message. Most recently the message we have been trying to convey is the one that prompts Christians, and most particularly Brethren Christians, to share their abundance with those in poverty. And of course we were especially thinking about this responsibility as Phil prepared for and made his trip to India, Bangladesh, and Thailand, representing our denomination in the factfinding tour of World Relief projects.

We tried to provide experiences for those who come to us at Brethren House that would help them understand **where** Phil went, **whom** he was seeing, **why** he went, and **what World Relief does** in the countries he was visiting. We took note of the itinerary regularly to determine **when** he arrived in and departed from each location. Here are some of the activities we planned for our Sunday mornings together.

**MAPS:** We marked his route on a world map by highlighting with magic marker the names of the cities he would visit. These we referred to often as we talked with the children about the trip. The time zones marked on the map helped point up the distance involved. As we discussed the trip this Sunday we realized that Phil was 12 hours ahead of us because of the distance he was away.

Enlarged maps of India, Bangladesh, and Thailand were taped to metal oven doors (procured earlier at the dump). Then we prepared cardboard strips backed with magnetic tape so the children could practice matching the names and finding the places of each of the cities he visited.

**CRAFT:** Using "Big Mac" cartons donated by John Lersch, who worked at McDonald's during vacation, we prepared "reminders" for the children to take home. In each carton the children placed four objects that told the story of some of the work of World Relief in the visited countries.

1. Empty film cans (we had many since Phil bought much film for the trip) became "medicine" bottles which the children labeled with mailing labels.

2. Miniature sacks of rice were made with Saran wrap cut and stapled together.
3. A small scrap of heavy upholstery signified the blankets distributed.
4. Tiny squares of paper folded and stapled together in "book" form represented the Bibles distributed.

Thus, each child could take home this reminder of Phil's trip and its purpose. We emphasized the necessity of our prayers on his behalf.

**PICTURE GALLERY:** Many of the National Geographic magazines we have at Brethren House feature scenes and people from this part of the world. Some of the children selected pictures which showed people, their poverty, their work, their dress—anything about the way of life there—and backed these pictures with colorful construction paper before hanging them on our "teaching wall." Besides adding atmosphere to our room, they provided instant opportunities to talk about the needs when we gathered for closing worship.

**TALKING BULLETIN BOARD:** A small record sent by World Relief in their most recent promotional packet became the focus of a bulletin board Susan created. On it she advertised the short facts presented on the record with color and words. As she was preparing it the children were invited to put on the headsets and listen to the record as they found the words and slogans.

**CLAY:** Pre-school children are not yet ready for much work with pencils and papers. They have not yet learned to read. They need large-muscle projects.

So, after talking with them and helping them see details in pictures we have about our mission work in India, we together sculpted clay pots and tiny grains of clay rice to go in the pots. Then we practiced eating with chop sticks as we saw children doing in the pictures.

Some of the children were able to draw pictures of things they saw Kumar doing in the Evangelist articles we showed them, but drawing is still rather difficult for them so we didn't insist upon that.

A few children made booklets that show Rev. and Mrs. Kumar's work in our mission stations in India.

One of the older children prepared a report on the city of Calcutta with information she gleaned from one of the National Geographic articles.

The folk hymn "When I Was Hungry," alluding to Matthew 25, became our theme song as we gathered for planning, discussion, and prayer each Sunday.

—Jean Lersch



## WE GREET YOU, BRETHREN GIVERS

Our Brethren World Relief offerings are at work in the world (through the World Relief Commission) in more places than we can report on four or five pages . . . actually, in a total of 20 nations—some with multiple programs of aid.

But these pages hit some high points at least—for 3 specific purposes (and a few other spin-offs):

- (1) **To help us all realize that the money we give through WRC is handled prayerfully, conscientiously, honestly and intelligently.** We can be confident that the evangelical agency through which we give (WRC) is reliable and gets help to people quickly, down on the local community level where they need it most.
- (2) **To inform us of the great good done in the past—valuable and practical expressions of Christian love.** What we give does make a significant difference in the lives of individual persons.
- (3) **To remind us that there are still many areas of crucial need.** This is no time to let up. We just can't give less when so many people daily are losing the battle for survival.

The following news snatches and pictures give you a quick overview of World Relief effectiveness . . . effectiveness that is definitely influenced by the level of our response. I say that because our church is now regularly one of the top half-dozen denominational contributors to WRC. How we respond does help determine how far WRC can go in providing material and spiritual aid to people in need.

In these terms, it's not a "give-if-ya-feel-like-it" situation; it's a "life-or-death" crisis for those at the other end who depend on us for hope and health.

Brethren World Relief Board:

Phil Lersch, Chairman

L. E. Lindower

George Kerlin, Treasurer

Joe Hanna

(Mrs.) Aida May Munson



Photo by Phil Lersch

### BANGLADESH

This veiled mother waits with her two children for her turn outside the "Under-Five Clinic" near Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Coming out of the hills and forests to the three-room, wooden clinic (open two days per week), these people receive diagnosis, vitamins, shots, food, nutritional information, and so forth.

In addition to preventative medicine, they receive spiritual care through Bible stories and singing from a Bible teacher while they or their siblings wait their turn. The clinic is a WRC project.

## DON'T MISS THE BACK COVER



# WORLD RELIEF QUICKIE QUIZ

Give this quiz a try before checking the correct answers on page 11.

Answers to Choose From		
Haiti	15,000	19 years
North Liberty	6 years	20
10	60	Bangladesh
Ethiopia	George Kerlin	\$27,799
6	India	30 years
Guatemala	Unknown	World Relief Commission

1. How many people die of starvation every minute? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How much did Brethren give for World Relief in 1975? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where was WRC sending aid just hours after an earthquake hit? \_\_\_\_\_
4. In how many nations is WRC giving aid? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many Brethren churches gave over \$1,000 to World Relief in 1975? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where do people face food shortages due to drought, monsoons, floods and fertilizer shortages? \_\_\_\_\_
7. How many people die every day of starvation? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many Brethren churches increased their giving in 1975? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Where are millions still suffering hardship caused by typhoons and floods? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How long has WRC been helping people? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who is treasurer of Brethren World Relief? \_\_\_\_\_
12. How long has there been drought in the Sahel nations of Africa, causing severe hunger? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Where have 7 months of famine and drought affected a half-million people? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Where are some children so weak from malnutrition they must be fed intravenously? \_\_\_\_\_
15. How long has the Brethren Church been involved in World Relief? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Through what relief organization does the Brethren Church send aid to those in need? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Which Brethren church gave the most to World Relief in 1975? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Why have some Brethren churches never given to World Relief? \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT ABOUT GUATEMALA?

When the earthquake hit Guatemala in early February, WRC and Dr. Everett Graffam were on the job immediately with phone calls, telegrams and reserve funds.

It is their policy in the early stages of disasters to forward funds, rather than materials, to on-the-field evangelical personnel who are familiar with the people, language, and sources of supply. They can minister immediately by purchasing needed supplies in the nearest unaffected areas and then by distributing food, blankets, medicines, and whatever else is needed by the victims.

By working through missionaries and na-

tional Christians, spiritual comfort and aid is intrinsic in the service rendered.

The latest report indicates over \$60,000 was committed there before March 1st (including some money for Bibles and evangelistic materials). Brethren gifts coming in designated "For Guatemala" will be applied toward replacing these expenditures.

**Brethren, be assured that we do have an effective channel to help in all such disasters (through WRC). Any time a disaster hits the news media and you want to help, just designate your gift and send it to George Kerlin in Goshen, Indiana (either directly or through your church treasurer).**

*If someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well, and sees a brother in need, and won't help him—how can God's love be within him?*

—I John 3:17, Living Bible



# world relief

## SEWING ROOM AT GENERAL CONFERENCE

### Special thanks . . .

...To the ladies who have contributed time and ability in the General Conference sewing room in recent years.

...And to those who brought completed articles from home for the display racks—a good source of ideas and patterns for others to see.

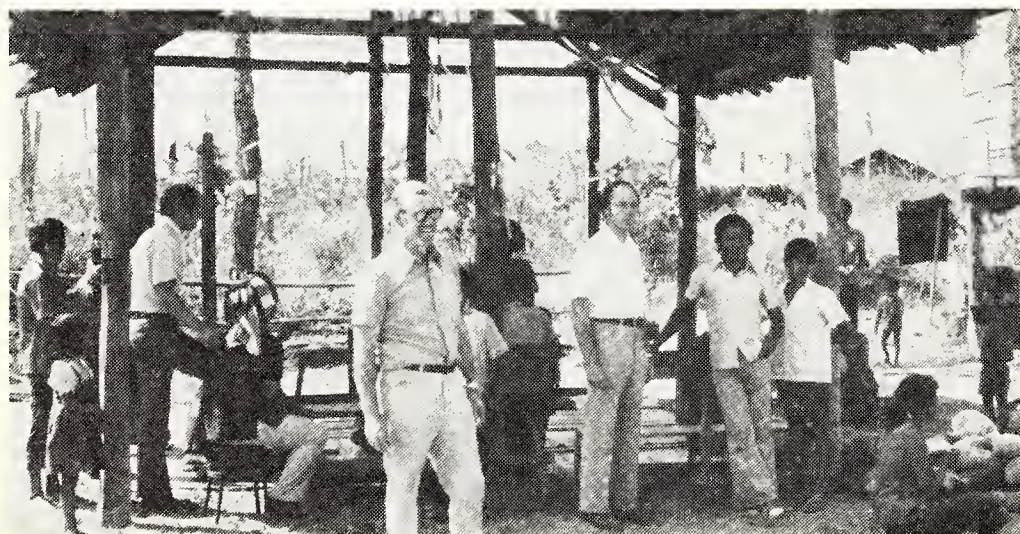
...And to those who are sewing regularly in their home church sewing groups for Brethren Care, Brethren's Home, missions in India—as well as World Relief.

...And to those who donated yarn, cloth, thread, and other supplies for all these projects.

May the making of warm and useful articles for others create a “warm-fuzzy feeling” within you. There is no way to measure the vast source of comfort and encouragement you have been to the recipients of your efforts.



*Above is a display of completed garments.  
Below, the quilt steadily takes shape.*



*Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions.*

*—I John 3:18, Living Bible*

## THAILAND

I'm standing outside this chapel in a village in rural Thailand before Sunday worship, Feb. 1 (I'm in the white shirt).

Nearby, with WRC help, 15 to 20 landless families will develop a Resettlement Project where they can become self-supporting and establish a Christian village.





WRC Photo

World Relief is our **chance** to give this child a **chance** . . . and not leave her future to **chance**.

There's a good **chance** she will someday pray,  
"Thank you, God for . . ."

**Perchance** you will help?

*If someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well, and sees a brother in need, and won't help him—how can God's love be within him?*

—I John 3:17, *Living Bible*

### Answers to Quickie Quiz

- |              |                   |                             |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 10        | 7. 15,000         | 13. Haiti                   |
| 2. \$27,799  | 8. 60             | 14. Ethiopia                |
| 3. Guatemala | 9. Bangladesh     | 15. 10 years                |
| 4. 20        | 10. 30 years      | 16. World Relief Commission |
| 5. 6         | 11. George Kerlin | 17. North Liberty           |
| 6. India     | 12. 6 years       | 18. Unknown                 |

**DON'T MISS THE BACK COVER**



WHAT CAN I SAY?

by Phil Lersch

WORLD RELIEF FINANCIAL RECORD

One year ago, in commenting on our World Relief giving in the Brethren Church during 1974, I wrote:

“Even in 1974—a year of economic squeeze and inflationary price jumps—our World Relief giving increased considerably . . . by \$2,721. Another new high was hit in 1974 . . . \$16,223.”

Well, if you (along with me) thought those 1974 figures were impressive—feast your eyes on these **totals for 1975**:

- \$24,478—Total Church Offerings
- 3,028—Individuals’ Gifts
- 293—Conference Soup Supper Profit

\$27,799—1975 **GRAND TOTAL**  
-16,223—1974 Total

\$11,576—**INCREASE in 1975**

Brethren, that’s an increase of **\$11,576** in one year; and our total giving was **\$27,799!**

Pardon my weak faith, but I’m overjoyed at the response we have given to God’s leading us to be concerned about those in desperate need—both materially and spiritually. I was praying for an increase, but I honestly didn’t expect that much. It shows we can do great things when we respond conscientiously to the prompting of God’s Spirit.

It seems obvious that the “Love Loaf” programs, soup suppers, and money-raising activities by Brethren youth groups for World Relief have helped make these increased gifts possible. However, was 1975 just an inspired “flash-in-the-pan”? We hope not—but rather a base upon which we can build for even greater sacrificial giving in the future.

The materials in the Evangelist will demonstrate both the significant kinds of help our gifts have made possible in the past and the unlimited needs yet unmet. Let’s agree now to build upon our past in this Bicentennial year!

The Visible Record of Expressed Love

1965	0
1966-67	\$1,546
1967-68	\$4,630
1968-69	\$6,363
1969-70	\$4,651
1970 (6 months)	\$2,665
1971	\$7,725
1972	\$9,499
1973	\$13,502
1974	\$16,223
1975	\$27,799

10 Year Total	\$94,603
1976	???

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

One church began giving to World Relief for the first time last year. Welcome to **Marion, Ind.**

**Six churches contributed \$1,000 or more last year.** The year before only Jefferson rose above the \$1,000 mark. But in 1975 these 6 made these significant gifts:

North Liberty (Ind.)	\$1,748.56
Waterloo (Iowa)	\$1,357.90
Pleasant Hill (Ohio)	\$1,316.92
Ashland, Park Street (Ohio)	\$1,272.69
Jefferson (Ind.)	\$1,098.74
Winding Waters (Ind.)	\$1,000.00

**Thirteen churches gave between \$500 and \$999,** compared with only 7 for the same amounts the year before. It’s gains like these that have made our increased giving a reality in 1975.

**Other important facts in our Brethren World Relief Picture are these:**

- 90 churches gave something to World Relief in 1975. That’s 3 more than in any single year in the past.
- 60 of those 90 churches increased their giving from the year before (as the tally on page 13 indicates).
- 32 churches didn’t contribute through our treasury last year. This always concerns us, but the number is less than ever before.
- 17 gifts arrived from “individuals,” totaling \$3,027.92. (That’s an increase of \$2,129.92 over 1974).
- Soup Supper profits at General Conference were \$293.10. **The 10-year total for our Conference Soup Suppers is \$2,333.**

A listing of contributions by churches (arranged according to districts) and individuals appears on page 13. (Please realize that any offering actually received by Mr. Kerlin after January 1, 1976, will be recorded as a part of next year’s report).

As these statistics indicate, it’s been the best year yet for Brethren World Relief because there has been noticeable commitment and growth.

Many have been aided in numerous significant ways—as the reports and pictures in this Evangelist indicate. But these reports also remind us that the Lord’s work through World Relief is not yet done.

**JUST CONTINUE BEING SENSITIVE TO GOD’S CONCERN FOR THOSE IN NEED, AND NO ONE WILL NEED TO FRET ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF OUR DEDICATION!**



Special notice to:

**CHURCH TREASURERS and INDIVIDUAL DONORS**

Please send all contributions for **World Relief** to:

Mr. George Kerlin, Treasurer  
1318 East Douglas  
Goshen, Indiana 46526

CHURCH	1974	1975	INCREASE	CHURCH	1974	1975	INCREASE
<b>Southeast District</b>				Burlington	47.00	70.00	23.00
Bethlehem	125.00	170.00	45.00	Center Chapel		36.12	36.12
Chandon				College Corner		54.00	54.00
Cumberland	8.00	15.00	7.00	Corinth	133.00	280.00	147.00
Dunraven				County Line	93.00	73.00	
Gatewood				Denver	52.00	63.00	11.00
Haddix	5.00			Dutchtown			
Hagerstown	277.00	150.00		Elkhart	277.00	292.94	15.94
Kimsey Run				Flora	75.60	218.65	143.05
Krypton	55.00	55.00		Fort Wayne			
Liberty	20.00	25.00	5.00	Goshen		77.50	77.50
Linwood	25.00	25.00		Huntington			
Lost Creek				Jefferson	1,038.78	1,098.74	59.96
Mathias	65.62	70.00	4.38	Kokomo	117.50	55.00	
Maurertown	90.00	598.40	508.40	Loree			
Meadow Branch				Marion		26.99	26.99
Mt. Olive	114.48	394.43	279.95	Matteson			
Oak Hill	24.00	100.00	76.00	Mexico	100.00	208.75	108.75
Rowdy				Milford	50.00	43.27	
St. James	104.74			Mishawaka		20.00	20.00
St. Luke		41.07	41.07	Muncie	22.50	191.80	169.30
Washington	303.75	517.52	213.77	Nappanee	200.00	200.00	
<b>Pennsylvania District</b>				New Paris	127.70	153.02	25.32
Berlin	101.04	542.89	441.85	North Liberty	850.34	1,748.56	898.22
Brush Valley	294.77	627.78	333.01	North Manchester		15.00	15.00
Calvary		8.00	8.00	Oakville	50.00	50.00	
Cameron	20.00			Peru	9.00		
Fairless Hills-Levittown	25.00	50.00	25.00	Roann	250.00	842.87	592.87
Highland	80.00	80.00		Roanoke	204.58	8.00	
Johnstown II	150.00	175.00	25.00	Shipshewana			
Johnstown III	554.00	600.00	46.00	South Bend	223.25	524.60	301.35
Masontown	106.55	154.85	48.30	Teegarden	305.41	460.00	154.59
Meyersdale	50.00	25.00		Tiosa	305.00	174.83	
Mt. Olivet	106.00	152.00	46.00	Wabash			
Mt. Pleasant				Warsaw	30.00	5.00	
Pittsburgh	50.00	50.00		Winding Waters	68.44	1,000.00	931.56
Quiet Dell				<b>Central District</b>			
Raystown				Cedar Falls	43.55	15.96	
Sergeantsville	35.00	35.00		Cerro Gordo	57.29	36.91	
Valley	40.00	44.00	4.00	Lanark	65.00	95.00	30.00
Vandergrift		20.00	20.00	Milledgeville	94.47	47.15	
Vinco	181.00	736.60	555.60	Udell	22.00		
Waynesboro	307.65	156.00		Waterloo	225.00	1,357.90	1,132.90
White Dale	162.18	46.70		<b>Midwest District</b>			
<b>Ohio District</b>				Carleton			
Akron	5.00	28.00	23.00	Cheyenne			
Ashland (Park Street)	382.33	1,272.69	890.36	Derby		162.34	162.34
Canton	472.00	394.58		Falls City	25.00	25.00	
Columbus	40.00	50.00	10.00	Fort Scott	92.95		
Dayton	186.00	316.31	130.31	Morrill	10.00	10.00	
Fremont	20.00			Mulvane			
Garber (Ashland)	33.00	62.00	29.00	<b>California District</b>			
Glenford				Lathrop			
Gratis	530.00	563.00	33.00	Manteca	125.00	273.60	148.60
Gretna	271.30	305.00	33.70	Stockton		127.69	127.69
Louisville	348.88	519.46	170.58	<b>Southwest District</b>			
Mansfield				Papago Park	17.00	40.00	23.00
Massillon	55.00	34.90		Tucson	300.11	201.18	
Newark	17.50	42.50	25.00	<b>Florida Churches</b>			
New Lebanon	352.59	363.10	10.51	Bradenton	6.05		
North Georgetown	12.00	38.86	26.86	Sarasota	575.00	320.00	
Pleasant Hill	708.38	1,316.92	608.54	St. Petersburg	86.98	42.56	
Smithville	544.69	517.86		<b>Miscellaneous</b>	14.83		
West Alexandria	500.00	704.71	204.71	<b>Total Church Offerings</b>	\$15,048.78	\$24,477.82	\$9,429.04
Williamstown				<b>Individuals' Gifts</b>	898.00	3,027.92	2,129.92
<b>Indiana District</b>				<b>Soup Supper Profit</b>	276.00	293.10	17.10
Ardmore	240.00	140.00					
Brighton	100.00	100.00					
Bryan	359.00	732.00	373.00				
					\$16,222.78	\$27,798.84	\$11,576.06



# Try Loving

by Roger Herman

*Read I John 3:14-20 and 4:7-21.*

Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another." John continued the testimony by saying, "And this commandment have we from Him, that he who loveth God love his brother also."

The question then arises: What is this love? What is it like, and how can it be expressed to others?

Real love is more than a feeling and has its source in God, who gives us this love. It is shown forth to others only as a result of God working in our hearts and as we allow His love to be expressed through our will.

The Bible says, "God is love." It also says that this love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. He is the source, but we are the vehicle. An unwilling vehicle displeases God. Since love is the sign of a disciple of Christ, those not releasing the love of God through themselves are not letting others know that they are a Christian and thus have no witness. It is a disservice to God when we try to testify to others about Him being alive in us if we are not passing His love on to others. It is like a person testifying about an accident which he did not see happen. Love is the evidence that you are a Christian—it must back up what we say with our mouths.

We cannot remain disciples of Christ and not have love for others. Love is the fruit of the Spirit. If we have the Holy Spirit, we will have love. When that love fails to be alive and active, it is time to repent. In the book of the Revelation, Jesus calls the church at Ephesus to repentance because their love had diminished.

What then is this love the Holy Spirit sheds abroad in our hearts? Simply described, it is an attitude of caring for all men at all times. It shows itself in good deeds and acts of kindness even when it doesn't feel like it emotionally. It does not seek to avenge itself but seeks only to please God. It is more than a feeling or emotion; it springs from the will. It is a response to the work of the Holy Spirit already accomplished in our hearts.

Let's take Jesus for our example. He had been beaten by the Roman whip. They had struck Him on the face and head. They had spit upon Him and pressed a crown of thorns upon His head in cruel mockery of His kingship. Now He was hanging on the cross with nails through His hands and feet. But what do we hear from His lips?

"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

That's love! Is it emotional love? Is it love that stemmed from a good feeling or kind treatment? Never! It was a love that came from the very heart and will of Jesus. Love then is not a result of some outward stimulus of kindness. True love is greater than the situation. It comes from the Spirit within, and He is not affected by outward circumstances. The Spirit remains the same; thus, when we depend upon the Spirit of God within us, we are also capable of loving even when the outward circumstances are against it. But we must will to do so along with the Spirit within us. He is our source, but we must be the willing vessel. God never acts against man's will, forcing him to do something he doesn't want to do.

Let me share with you an experience of a pastor friend of mine. After preaching one Sunday, he was derided by one of the women in the congregation who disagreed with what he had said. He listened and then said, "I still love you."

The Devil immediately said to him, "You're a liar."

Within himself the pastor said, "Why am I a liar?"

The Tempter replied, "Because you don't feel it."

But thanks be to God, the Devil is the liar, for our feelings are not the test of love. We can be hurting inside from what someone has said or done to us yet still love the person and treat them in a loving manner. Love is stronger than our feelings and persists in spite of them.

Even a sinner is able to love someone who loves him, but Jesus calls us to love those who do not love us. Love for the unlovely is the supreme test of love, but the real place to practice loving is in our daily lives.

Don't forget that your love will be a growing process. At times you will probably fail to be loving. Again this happens not because our source is inadequate, but because we heed the flesh rather than the Spirit. When this happens we retaliate unkindly to a given situation or person. There is only one thing to do when this happens. Confess it as sin, ask God and others to forgive us, and go on. Don't give up—God isn't finished with you yet! Rather, ask Him to help you learn from your past failures.

Here are some practical suggestions of ways you can begin growing in your demonstration of love to others. Talk about them with your spouse and discuss them in your Sunday school class.



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## We must be the willing vehicle for the shedding of God's love today.

Perhaps you can think of many other ways to begin letting the love of God become active in your own heart and life.

Begin by doing something kind for everyone who has hurt you in any way. Do it without expecting anything in return, and do it to prove to them and to yourself that you forgive them. You may still feel the hurt from what they did or said to you, but it is true love and true forgiveness if you can treat them with kindness when they don't deserve it. The Bible teaches us not to repay evil for evil, but rather to overcome evil with good. Thus you will be pleasing God in what you do.

Next, think of little things you can do to show your family you love them. Parents, take time to listen when your child tries to tell you something that is important to him. If it is important enough for him to share it with you, it is important enough for you to lay down your paper and listen! If you won't listen to the things he considers important now (even though they may seem very unimportant to you) he won't bring his problems and joys to you later. Listening is a loving pattern you should establish now!

Husbands and wives, tell each other "I love you" at least once during each day. Think of things to praise each other for, and never deride each other in public. Learn to do things together that your mate enjoys. Fellows, wash the dishes for your wife once in a while. You probably won't enjoy it, but she probably doesn't either. You will appreciate her a little more, and she will appreciate you more, too. Gals, sit down and watch a baseball game with him, or help him wash the car. A man enjoys his wife doing things with him.

Children obey your parents without arguing. This pleases God, and you will find your parents beginning to trust you more. But don't expect it to happen in a week. And don't say you are a Christian and love the Lord if you are disobedient to your parents. The Lord says you are to obey your parents—that means whether you agree with their judgment or not. If you do this, you will build a higher level of trust.

Love is going the second mile on the job. It is working up to the time the whistle blows. It is a smile and a kind word. It is praying for those who make fun of you rather than reacting to

their criticism. It is sharing with your fellow workers the change God has made in your life, by example and by word.

At church love means appointing yourself as a committee of one to greet visitors and show them friendship. In general, it is making them feel wanted and welcome. It is praying for your pastor and not running him down before others. When you disagree with him, talk to him privately.

Love should be a way of life for the people of God. Study it, think about it, talk about it, and with God's help practice it. It pays to love others, for the more you give away, the more you receive. God's law is irreversible: "Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."



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*Roger Herman is a student at Ashland Theological Seminary and plans to enter missionary service upon graduation.*



# Growing Students

by Terry Lodico

For three years I wrestled with the oppressive forces that oppose our embrace of God's love. I struggled to mature with fellow Christians at Ashland College. We became a community, supporting and upholding one another against pressures. In three years that community grew from a concerned few to almost 200 believers.

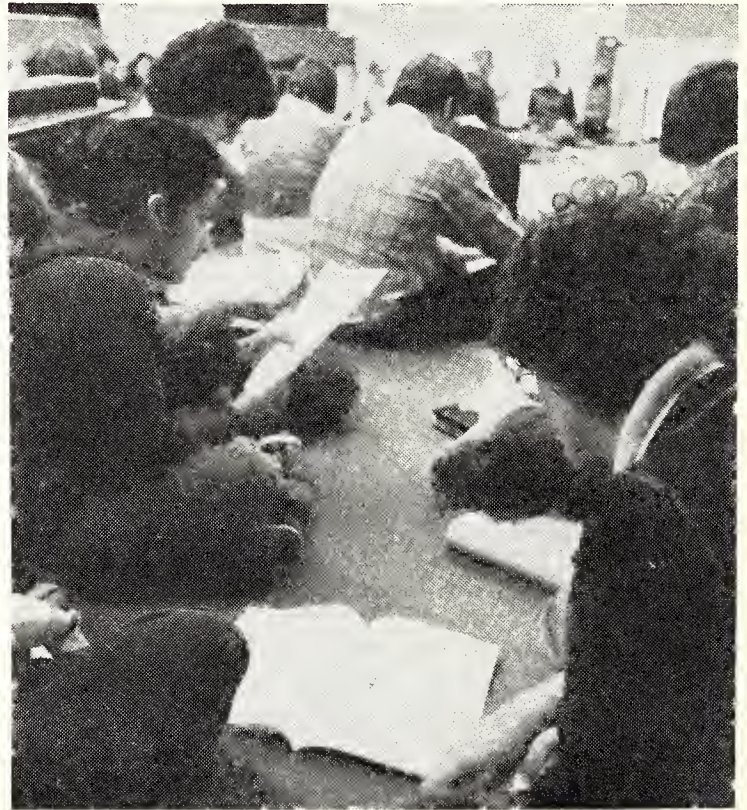
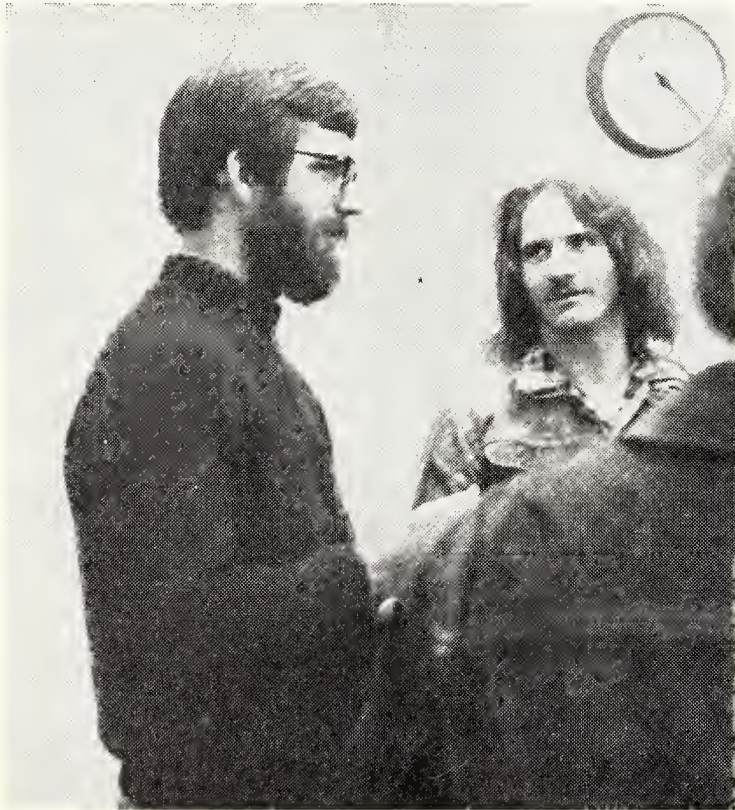
It was an exciting time—Christ's reality was new to most of us. It was an important time—we were children searching for life's meaning. It is a great joy to recall those who obtained victory, a solid faith in Christ Jesus. Yet there were those who did not get a firm grasp of this faith. Many joined them in the struggle, bringing them to an encounter with the claims of Christ. We wanted them to know the peace that we had experienced.

From those early years of struggle and growth, the campus ministry has begun to come of age. Today it is a "grassroots" ministry—one of young people helping young people discover truth in life.

If you would attend a meeting on Thursday nights called "Celebration," you would see an average of 50 students from a variety of backgrounds gathered to learn, share, and praise the Lord. You would see expressions of uncertainty, enlightenment, sadness, and joy. Disappointment and sorrows are shared, as well as joys. Victories are expressed, such as the news of a friend coming to know Jesus or of a brother maturing in the faith.

The Christian Coffee House in the Student Union has been a source of entertainment and effective outreach to the college community. This year such singers as "Day Spring," "Honey Tree," and "Kenny Marks" have sung to large audiences to the glory of God.

Alpha Theta, a Christian service organization, provides Christian social functions for college students. An ice cream social, square dance, pizza party, and two retreats have been sources of fellowship this year. The Alpha Theta House provides an informal



Photos by Bruce Ronk

*Don Snell (left), Director of Religious Activities, chats with a student.  
At right, Christians on campus participate in study during  
a Thursday night "Celebration."*

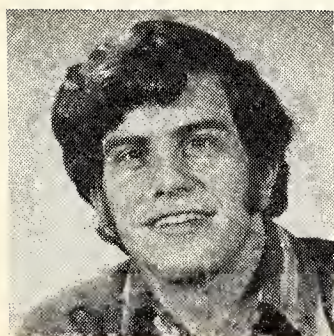


atmosphere for developing closer relationships on a day-to-day basis. Gospel team trips by Alpha Theta have been a means of ministry to local churches. A planned trip to Nebraska will be a highlight this spring.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is another important organization, ministering to local high school athletes and athletes on campus. Members meet regularly for sharing and growing through inspirational speakers. Playing basketball at the Mansfield Reformatory has been a way for members to use their talents as witnesses for Christ.

The Christian community has sponsored several learning opportunities for college students. Dr. Richard Dobbins, a Christian psychologist, lectured recently on anxiety and depression—problems which many students face. As a result of the requests of students in previous years, Dr. Bruce Stark, Professor of Philosophy, is teaching a course on the “Christian Perspective in Life and Learning.” Thirty students attend the course, which is offered for credit. The major areas of study are: 1) the theological understanding of God 2) the nature of the Christian faith, and 3) a Christian perspective of the different academic disciplines (i.e., history, science, education, art, psychology, etc.). The purpose of the course is to offer an alternative to secular humanism. This is done by assuming that the revelation of God is meaningful and relevant to our world today.

Many Bible studies take place in the dorms to further the students’ understanding of the Bible. Dr. Joseph Kickasola, Associate Professor of Old Testament at Ashland Theological Seminary, leads a faculty study.



*Terry Lodico is currently a second-year student at Ashland Theological Seminary, having graduated in 1974 from Ashland College. He was summer youth director for the Burlington, Ind., church during the summer of 1974 before doing a year of graduate study in Israel.*

Don Snell, Director of Religious Activities and Campus Ministries, and lay-sponsored ATS student Mike Gleason could share with you the personal struggles college students face: depression, anxiety, self-identity crises, and questions concerning life and the Christian faith.

An important program in Don’s ministry is discipleship. The program involves training students in “how to share their faith as a way of life” and to help them gain “a solid base for their faith.” The building of unity is an important goal in discipleship. The “mending of nets, the setting of broken bones” is the goal to bring about oneness in the body and thus, a more effective ministry to the campus. Knowing one’s spiritual gift for the building up of the Body of Christ is also an important part of the teaching Don and Mike give at “Celebration.”

To continue this teaching, a more intensive study is provided on Saturday mornings for those interested. Don and Mike spend half an hour with each of these students a week to meet individual needs. Students become ministers to other students as a result. Prayer is also a vital part of this effort.

Campus ministry is not an easy ministry. It takes insight, leadership, and enthusiasm to encourage and build a church that has no formal institutional framework. It takes people with faith, for without faith there is no visible witness. Campus ministry takes a development of unity in love for one another. “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35).

When I was a student at Ashland College two years ago, someone said to me, “You know, you guys bug people sometimes with your witnessing; but the way you love one another, you make people want to be with you.” Love attracts people to Christ. This should be an example for us all.

God is bringing forth students to reap the harvest at Ashland College, and we praise Him. But let us pray that He will provide even more, for “the harvest is plentiful” (Matt. 9:37-38).



# UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church  
and the Evangelical Press Association

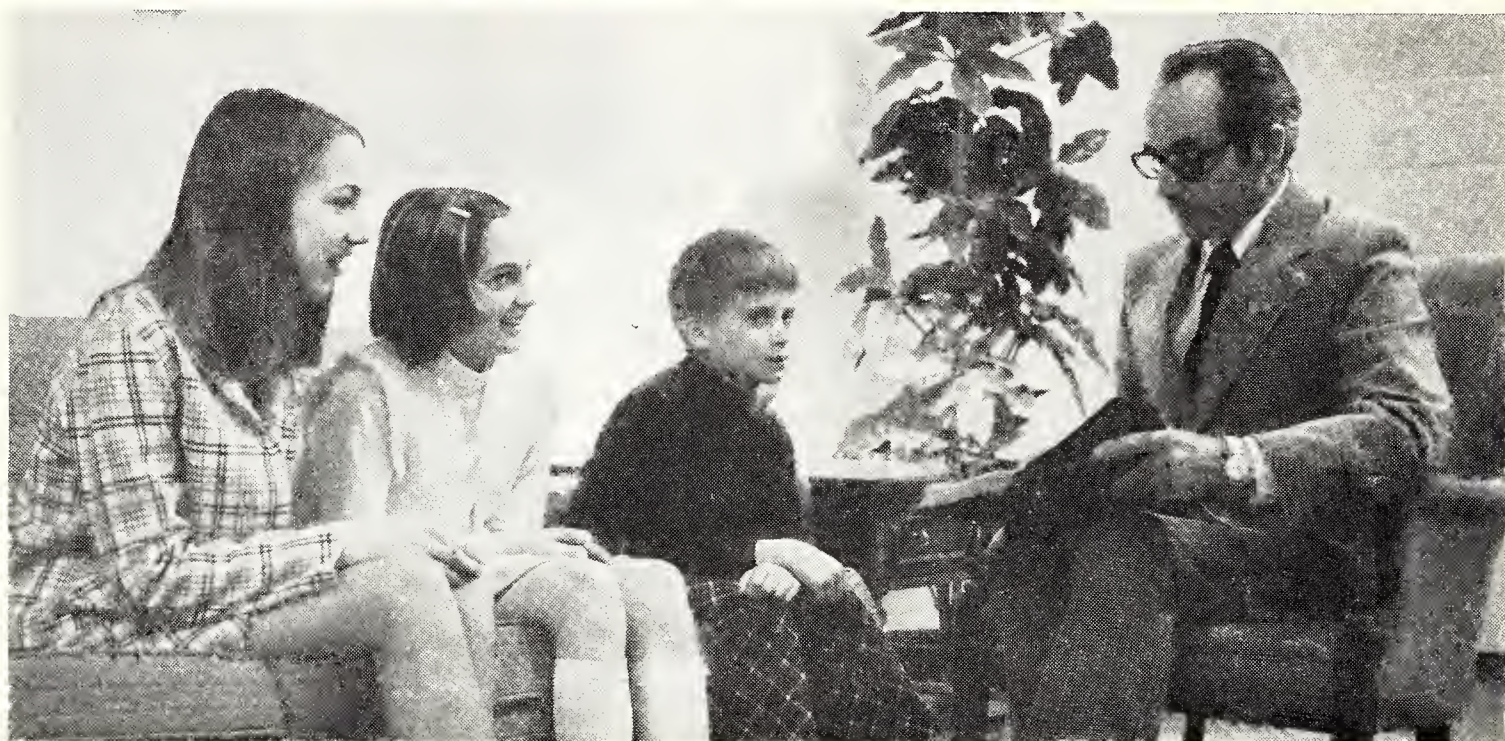


Photo by Bruce Ronk

*Preparing for the dramatic presentation at Park Street are Margaret and Joyce Ronk, Neil Hamilton, and Dorman Ronk.*

## Park Street Celebrates 50th Anniversary

by Julie Flora

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Park Street Brethren Church celebrated the 50th anniversary of its present building on Feb. 29 with a play entitled "Faith of Our Fathers."

The idea for the presentation originated with Doris Shultz. A planning committee was organized, composed of Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Shultz, Mr. & Mrs. Dick Leidy, Rev. & Mrs. Bob Holsinger, and Miss Helen Shively.

The church's Board of Christian Education enthusiastically accepted the idea. Ida Lindower was commissioned to write the script, and Alberta Holsinger, Esther Black, and Maude Edwards were selected to direct the production. Special effects for the multimedia production were created by Dick Leidy with the assistance of John Rowsey, Ron Waters, and Tracy Wilt, Jr.

Mrs. Lindower used old church scrapbooks and other memorabilia in researching the historical sketch. To present the information in an interesting way, she used the idea of a father relating the story of the church to his children, showing them pictures from a scrapbook, telling how the congregation was started, and relating something about each of its pastors. Dorman Ronk was cast

as the father and filled his role admirably.

The use of flashbacks into the past also enhanced the story. Flashback portrayals included the building committee, the WMS, and each of the pastors. These presentations were given from behind a scrim, a special cloth which is opaque until light is focused behind it. Tapes were used of the actual voices of men who are now living.

Slides simulating the pictures the children were seeing in the scrapbook were flashed on the wall on each side of the chancel.

Along with the historical facts, the play also included some humorous sections. For example, one child asked, "Hey, did you notice how many of our former pastors were baldheaded? Was that our fault?" Another child frequently remarked that "tempus fugits" (time flies).

The choir sang two hymns: "How Firm A Foundation" and "Faith of Our Fathers." These hymns had been sung at the dedication of the church building in 1926.

Following the benediction, the congregation enjoyed refreshments in the fellowship hall, which had been decorated in red, white, and blue for the occasion.



Bates Honored

**WAYNESBORO (Pa.)**—Henry Bates, pastor of the Wayne Heights church, has been named to **Who's Who in America—1976**. He was also listed in **Who's Who in Religion** along with a number of other Brethren pastors and leaders.

Born in Snodland, England, Bates was ordained into the Brethren ministry in 1945. He has served churches in St. James (Md.), Oakville (Ind.), North Manchester (Ind.), and Vinco (Pa.), in

addition to his present pastorate.

For five years he was professor of Old Testament at Ashland Theological Seminary. He has written for the Brethren Quarterly for 17 years and has authored two books: **Biblical Hebrew for Beginning Students** and **Books of the Old Testament in Perspective**.

Pastor Bates is married to the former Ruby Younce. They have four children.

NEO TEACHERS CONVENE

**SMITHVILLE (Ohio)**—A total of 81 Brethren attended the Northeast Ohio Training Workshop, Jan. 31, at the Smithville Brethren Church. Purpose of the workshop was to bring teachers from the area into contact with age-group specialists in Christian education.

The workshop was sponsored by the Ohio Dist. Board of Christian Education.

Workshop leaders were: Barbara Bolton (early childhood/childhood), Children's Division coordinator for ICL; Donald Rinehart (youth), chairman of the department of religion at Ashland College; and James Fields (adult), pastor of the Fremont (Ohio) Brethren Church.

**LATE NEWS: TUCSON YOUTH INJURED**

**TUCSON (Ariz.)**—Six young people of the First Brethren Church here were injured in an automobile accident on Mar. 1 while enroute to a bell choir practice. As of Mar. 8, two were still hospitalized.

Recovering from the accident under hospital care were Sue Barnes, 18, and Annie Guilbert, 17. Others injured in the accident were John Gayman, Nancy Tolvert, Debbie Hansft, and Gary Hansft.

The teens were on their way to the weekly practice session when a car they were following attempted a left turn into the path of an on-coming auto. That driver swerved to avoid the turning car and struck the youths' car head on.

Internal injuries to the hospitalized girls required operations within the first 24 hours, but both were reported to be recovering satisfactorily. It was hoped that both would be released to their homes within two to three weeks after the collision.

The prayers of Brethren across the country are requested on behalf of all the youth for steady and complete recovery.

**CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY—FINALLY**

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Unseasonably warm weather during the first week in March allowed the ground to thaw and construction to begin on the Carpenter's Shop, the new Brethren bookstore in Ashland. The contractor hopes to complete construction on schedule despite the adverse weather.

McCanns Welcomed at Bryan

**BRYAN (Ohio)** — Members and friends of the First Brethren Church here welcomed the Marlin McCann family with a reception and gift shower on Jan. 24. Entertainment was planned by the music committee and refreshments were served by the Laymen's organization.

Tentmakers Recognized

**CHEYENNE (Wyo.)**—The Cheyenne church honored Paul and Paula Deardurff with a covered dish dinner and wedding shower on Jan. 11. The newlyweds are involved in a tentmaking ministry in the church.

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## Evangelist Index

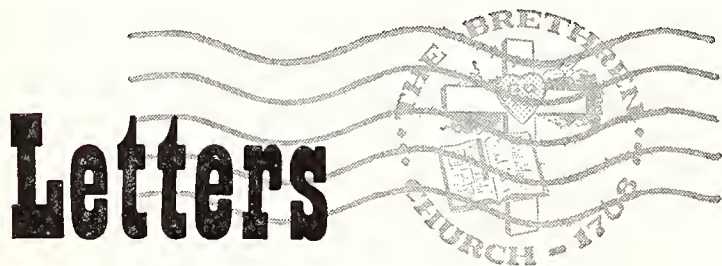
Volume 97—1975

An index to the Brethren Evangelist for 1975 has been compiled by Bradley E. Weidenhamer, librarian at Ashland Theological Seminary, and published by the Brethren Publishing Company. Free copies are available to all who request them by **April 15, 1975**. (Cost will be 50 cents each thereafter.) To order your copy, complete and send this coupon (or a facsimile) to: Index, The Brethren Evangelist, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_



To the Editor:

I would like to express my opinion on the writings in the Evangelist of Manfred Holck.

These writings—and especially the one on tithing (Church Finance, January 1976)—are not fit logic, especially for the younger people or new Christians. How easy it would be for many to misinterpret and to feel “Hurrah, I don’t have to tithe!” And since when isn’t it in the New Testament?

Also, the article about church treasurers (February 1976) puts the emphasis on temptations to embezzle money rather than just plain innocent mistakes. Do Brethren have a high percentage of people prone to such temptation? I think not—or was I born 40 years too soon?

I am just plain opposed to this man’s stuff thus far and would like to see it discontinued. (This seems to be a first for me—to disapprove of something in the Evangelist).

—Marie Becknell, Ashland, Ohio

*Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters should pertain to the content or format of the magazine and be limited to 250 words in length. Writers should also include their name and address. Letters will be published as space allows. We value your comments.*

## Membership Growth

**Burlington:** 4 by baptism

**Udell:** 5 by baptism

## In Memory

**EARL L. AURANDT**, 79, Feb. 12. Member of the Vinco (Pa.) church. Funeral services by C. William Cole, pastor.

**CHRISTOPHER CORY**, 102, Feb. 20. Member of the Oakville (Ind.) church and believed to be the oldest resident of Henry County, Ind. Services by Wes Ellis, pastor.

**HAZEL WARNER**, 81, Dec. 21. Active in Goshen (Ind.) First Brethren Church since 1921, deaconess since 1934. Funeral by Spencer Gentle, pastor.

## Calendar of Events

**APRIL 4**—Mortgage-burning service, Pleasant View Brethren Church, Vandergrift, Pa., 2:00 p.m. Percy Miller, speaker.

**APRIL 22**—Stronger Church Families Seminar with Larry Richards, Ashland Theological Seminary.

**APRIL 23-25**—Men’s Congress, Winona Hotel, Winona Lake, Ind. Contact Rev. Smith Rose for detailed information.

**APRIL 23-25**—Southwest Dist. Conference, Tucson, Ariz.

**APRIL 24**—National Sisterhood Board meeting, Meadow Crest church, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

**APRIL 28-29**—Learning Center Workshop with Phil Lersch and Bonnie Munson, Ashland Theological Seminary.

**MAY 4-6**—Pastors’ & Wives’ Retreats, Ohio Camp Bethany.

**JUNE 10-12**—Indiana Conference, Shipshewana.

**JUNE 18-19**—Ohio Conference, Camp Bethany.



## World News in Brief

### BRETHREN ATTEND NAE-NRB CONVENTION

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (NAE)** — "Let Freedom Ring" was the theme of the joint convention of the National Association of Evangelicals and National Religious Broadcasters held here, Feb. 22-25. A total of 17 members of the Brethren Church attended.

President Gerald Ford addressed the opening special "Prayer for the Nation" service. He reminded the 2000 church leaders present that despite much corruption and distrust in the land today, we can still believe in the "faith of our fathers, living still."

Others addressing the convention were Arizona Congressman John Conlan, Dr. Harold J. Ockenga, and Dr. Francis Schaeffer. Over 50 major workshops were conducted.

Representing the Brethren Church at the convention were: Rev. & Mrs. Spencer Gentle, Rev. & Mrs. Carl Barber, Mr. & Mrs. William Cooksey, Smith F. Rose, M. Virgil Ingraham, Arden E. Gilmer, Eugene Beekley, Woodrow Immel, Ralph Mills, Robert Hoffman, Robert Keplinger, Randy Best, Mark Logan, and Fred Burkey.

President Ford's remarks and the 1976 convention position paper will appear in a future issue of the Evangelist.

### CHRISTIANS AID EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

**GUATEMALA CITY (EP News)**—As the death toll reached an estimated 19,000 in Guatemala's earthquake, relief efforts by Christians and other relief agencies assisted the victims.

The first shipments were made by Food for the Hungry three weeks before the earthquake hit, in anticipation of the disaster.

The Billy Graham Association's World Emergency Relief Fund donated \$50,000 to aid the effort through MAP, International. On Feb. 13 Graham and Ray Knighton, MAP president, flew to Guatemala to survey areas of need. As of mid-February, MAP's cumulative efforts totalled over \$479,000.

Church World Services sent relief supplies and funds totalling \$500,000. Thousands of pounds of supplies were airlifted by Catholic Relief Services and Mercy Airlift.

NAE's World Relief Commission dispatched \$60,000 the same day of the disaster and pledged a total of \$250,000 while the Christian Reformed World Relief Commission sent \$10,000 in addition to an airlift of clothing and blankets.

Virtually every denomination and all agencies working in Latin America were involved.

### URBANA 76 FILM AVAILABLE

**MADISON, Wis. (IVCF)**—A film highlighting URBANA 76, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship's triennial missionary convention, is now available for showing at no cost to churches and other groups interested in seeing students consider the convention theme, "Declare His Glory Among the Nations."

URBANA 76 is the 11th missionary convention sponsored by Inter-Varsity. Over 15,000 students are expected to attend the five-day conference, Dec. 27-31, 1976, at the University of Illinois.

Further information on showing the film is available by writing to URBANA 76, 233 Langdon Street, Madison, Wis. 53703. Recently released URBANA 76 brochures and registration forms are also available at the same address.

### WORLD VISION LEADER URGES PRESIDENT TO REMOVE "CLOUD" FROM MISSIONERS

**MONROVIA, Calif. (EP News)**—Dr. W. Stanley Mooneyham, president of World Vision International, has urged President Ford "to uphold the doctrine of the church-state separation and to remove the cloud from our overseas missionary enterprises by directing the CIA to refrain from involving persons in Christian vocations in its intelligence activity."

The CIA announced recently that it would not recruit missionaries to supply intelligence information but would accept such information voluntarily given.

### DECISION EDITOR RESIGNS

**MINNEAPOLIS (EP News)**—After 16 years at the editorial helm of Decision magazine, Dr. Sherwood E. Wirt relinquished his editorial duties on April 1 at his request.

Wirt had been the only editor of the magazine since it was launched in 1960 by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

## Bicentennial Conference Briefs

### NEWSWRITERS' WORKSHOP SCHEDULED

**ASHLAND (Ohio)** — The Brethren Publishing Company has announced plans to hold a news-writer's workshop during the 1976 General Conference. Purpose of the workshop is to train local church correspondents in using the news media for promoting their church in the community.

Participants will attend two seminars during the week on gathering and writing newsstories. Assignments to report on events of the week will be given. Stories written will be evaluated, and selected ones will appear in a special Conference report in the September issue of the Brethren Evangelist.

Registration information will be released later.

### BAND, CHOIR POSITIONS OPEN

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The Conference Band and Choir still have openings. If interested, contact: Choir—Doris Shultz (455 S. Countryside, Ashland, OH 44805), or Band—James Lentz (405 N. Madison, Nappanee, IN 46550).



# Celebrating Senior Citizens . . .

*Reports compiled by the Benevolent Board  
of the Brethren Church*

## *. . . at Goshen, Ind.*

Sunday, Feb. 15, 1976, was truly a big day for the senior citizens of the First Brethren Church in Goshen, Ind. Some 60 or more senior citizens were special guests of the church, and the "Senior Citizen of the Year" award was presented to the one who had been nominated by the adult Sunday school classes of the church.

The special events of the day began when the pastor called for the senior citizens to come to the altar where the youth of the church pinned a carnation on each senior citizen. While this was being done, Mrs. Onnie Puro sang "I'm Free" and "The Longer I Serve Him," both by Bill Gaither.

Rev. Spencer Gentle, pastor, gave a short meditation on the 71st Psalm, which was followed by testimonies from three senior citizens. Mrs. Harold Bechtel, Mrs. Myron Culp and Mr. Earl Shaffer each told of God's goodness to them down through the years, and how they have depended so much upon Him for strength through the difficult times of life. A letter from Mrs. Adeline Miller, who is now living in California, was read during the course of the service.

Mr. Gary Gill spoke of his respect for the senior citizens of the church and how they have been faithful to the local church through all the problems of the recent years.

The "Senior Citizen of the Year" award was presented by Mr. Harold Troeger to Mr. DeMain Warner who has been a member of the church for the past 69 years. Mr. Warner has served in almost every office of the church, and has been a member of the deacon board for the past 41 years, serving as chairman for 18 years. He has served in the Indiana District in several capacities, the latest being chairman of the Indiana District Board of Trustees. He has given his support, both morally and financially, to all of the boards of the denomination.

Mr. Warner has been a farmer all of his life and has been most active in the Farm Bureau work of the community. He was a director of the Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association for 24 years, and president of the Association for 6 years. Many other achievements in the community and in the Brethren Church were cited during the presentation of the plaque to Mr. Warner.

Mr. Warner's wife, Hazel, passed away this past Dec. 21. They had been married for 55 years. He has two children: Mrs. Kenneth (Genevieve) Lehman of Topeka, Ind., and Mr. Philip Warner of Goshen, Ind.

Following the worship hour, the senior citizens were served a dinner in the dining room of the church. During the course of the dinner, letters were read which had been written by the members



Photo by Goshen News

*DeMain Warner receives Senior Citizen of the Year plaque from Harold Troeger at Goshen First Brethren Church.*

of the high school Sunday school class as to what the senior citizens meant to them as young people.

This was truly a happy occasion for all of us.  
—Spencer Gentle, pastor

## *. . . at Cheyenne, Wyo.*

We are developing a program of ministry which is benefiting our church and community as well as glorifying Jesus Christ.

We had a tremendously successful Senior Citizens' Day on Feb. 15. We normally have about 45-55 in attendance in the morning worship service. We had 96! Praise the Lord! We had our first senior citizen's fellowship meeting on the following Wednesday at noon, and we had more people from the community than we had people from the church! We have named our group "The Happy Citizens' Club" because there is an existing group in town known as the Golden Age Club. There were 14 present at the first meeting.

The local paper ran a picture of our "Senior Citizens of the Year," who were Mrs. Lucy Curtright (Rev. Albert Curtright's mother), and Rev. Frank Garber.

—Larry Baker, pastor



## . . . at Brighton Chapel, Ind.

In response to the proclamation that Feb. 15 would be "Senior Citizens' Sunday" in the Brethren Church, our church went into action.

A committee of nine was appointed by the pastor to set up, plan, and carry out "Senior Citizens' Sunday." The committee ranged in age from 17 to 59, with five men and four ladies meeting with the pastor at least four times in full committee prior to Feb. 15; many mini meetings were also held.

After much planning, praying, and discussing, the program described here was set in motion. We set the age limit at 60 years, for this is the age of our older adult Sunday school class. We found we had 37 senior citizens in our church community. Some of these seniors were married and some were alone, their partners having gone to their reward. Information was obtained, either by committee, mail, or phone, asking each senior citizen for his favorite hymn, scripture, food, and whether they would need a ride to church. Answers were received from nearly all of the senior citizens. The committee planned a dinner on the 15th with the senior citizens as honored guests. A table was reserved for our special guests, beautifully decorated with a centerpiece. The theme for all table decorations was centered around Valentine's Day, our Bicentennial, and our senior citizens. Twenty-four guests gathered around this table for the meal on Sunday. The church furnished the major portion of the meat for the dinner, and the rest of the church (with the committee's suggestions as to the favorite foods of our senior citizens) filled the tables to overflowing.

Sunday school was dismissed, and slides were shown of fellowships of previous years which brought back many memories. Pictures were included of vacation Bible schools, campouts on Sunday at local camp sites, Sunday school picnics, and various parties.

All the hymns used in the morning and afternoon were those requested by the honored guests. The two most requested hymns were "Rock of Ages" and "How Great Thou Art." The morning worship service was attended by 117, a number which fills our church. A tribute by Moderator James Wire, Sr., was given. Then as the pastor read the names of our senior citizens, the committee presented each guest with a beautiful gold book entitled "Golden Nuggets." For those unable to attend the service, the book was presented as soon as possible after Sunday. After the pastor's tribute (which was not a sermon), the pastor read the following testimony by Bessie Grove:

"At the age of 12 years old, I accepted Jesus and was baptized by my father, pastor of the Brethren Church in Philadelphia, Pa., almost 77 years ago. I have been happy doing what I could these many years. I am so glad God sent His only Son to die on the cross that I might be saved. I have failed Him many times, but He is always waiting there with open arms to receive me when I ask forgiveness. I feel it is a miracle how

much God loves us. It is wonderful to have the love in our hearts that He gives us. Our Heavenly Father means so much to me. I could not live without Him. I am so glad to be a member of the Brighton Chapel Brethren Church, and I love every one of you. I thank the Lord every day for the health and strength He gives me to still attend church and do what I can for Him. May the Lord richly bless every one of you. Never stop doing your best for Him, our precious Lord. To God be the glory, great things He has done. Praise His holy name.

Bessie

"P.S. I want to thank you for this special day."

While the song "The Longer I Serve Him, The Sweeter He Grows" was played softly, the choir assembled, and Bessie was ushered to the platform by a member of the committee where she sang the verses of the song; the choir joined her on the chorus. She is a remarkable woman, and there weren't many dry eyes in the audience.

Dinner followed with 107 attending. As the senior citizens were having their second cup of coffee, a "floor show" was presented. A trumpet trio of men who hadn't played for 20 years performed; there was a washboard, jew's harp, trumpet, and jug rendition of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"; a pantomime of "Whispering Hope" was given; Ann Lauver, playing her guitar, presented "Amazing Grace" and "It Is No Secret"; and the Elegant 8 men stole the show and led our guests and friends in singing "Sweet Adeline," "If You Knew Suzie," "You Are My Sunshine," and many other old favorites. We joined hands as best we could and sang "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" to close the day. It was a time long to be remembered. We took movies of the day's activities and also slides for future programs.

It was a great day for Brighton Chapel Brethren Church, her people, her senior citizens, and her pastor.

—John Long, pastor

*Ed. note—John added a personal footnote to the report: "Excuse the typing. I simply get excited all over again at this day. It has been the talk of our church, the community, and the surrounding area."*

## . . . at Vinco, Pa.

Senior Citizens' Sunday on Feb. 15 featured two special messages by our pastor, C. William Cole, and a reception for nine church members in their eighties: Verna Lenhart, Nellie Simmons, Eva Walk, Mary Varner, Elsie Leidy, Ralph Patch, Frank Giles, Gundar Swanson, and Frank Paul.

—Helen Mackell



## . . . at Ashland, Ohio

Senior citizens at Park Street Brethren Church, Ashland, Ohio, were honored at the morning worship service with each receiving carnation boutonnières. The pastor's sermon was entitled "Faithful Servants."

A carry-in dinner was held at noon with all senior citizens as honored guests. Members and friends of the church brought food in abundance so the senior citizens would not have any food preparation. Dr. L.E. Lindower led in prayer for the meal. Special cakes were made by Mrs. Arthur DeLozier and Beverly Summy; cake that was left after the meal was taken to residents of Brethren Care.

A short program, emceed by Elton Whitted, included a humorous story by Royce Gates, singing of old hymns led by Bruce Ronk with Mrs. Joseph Shultz as pianist, nominations for Park Street's "Senior Citizen of the Year," thoughts by the pastor, and a final thought for the day.

Committee for Senior Citizen Sunday was composed of Mr. and Mrs. William Hubler, Mr. and Mrs. O.B. Harding, and Rev. and Mrs. Jim Geaslen.

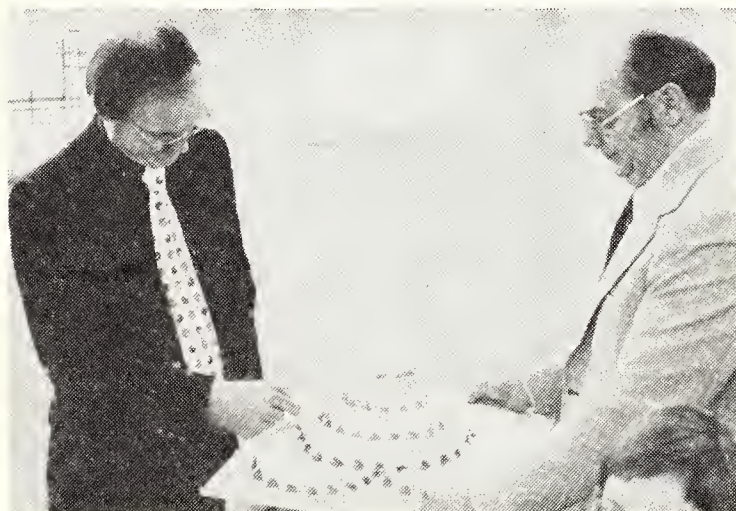
The following Sunday morning the winner of the "Senior Citizen of the Year" award was announced in the morning worship service. Mrs. Fern Smith was called to the front of the sanctuary where a certificate, a lovely plant, and a beautiful engraved silver tray were presented to her. Fern is well known to Ashlanders and many in the denomination for her work in food service at Ashland College for a number of years and for her service in the same capacity at Ohio Camp Bethany. She has been a "mother" and friend to many Ashland College students, as a number of them lived with Fern while attending college. Fern has served the Park Street church in various capacities but again mainly in preparing and serving food at many church functions. Her constant service, Christian witness, and lovely personality have been an inspiration to all who know her.

—Beverly Summy



Photos by Bruce Ronk

*Fern Smith (above) receives the "Senior Citizen of the Year" award from Jim Geaslen and pastor Eugene Beekley. Below, senior citizens Electa Zimmerman, Hilda Carpenter, Chlora Hazen, Deema Fasig, and Rhea Moherman enjoy the dinner.*



*Bill Hubler (left) and George Snyder cut a special cake made for the senior citizens at Park Street. At right, George Schuster shares a good story with Royce and Ruth Gates.*



## . . . at Vandergrift, Pa.

The Pleasant View Brethren Church at Vandergrift, Pa., observed Senior Citizens' Sunday by honoring those 62 or older during the morning worship service.

The pastor, Rev. William Walk, honored the senior citizens with these words: "Our brothers and sisters, today we want to say thank you for your years of service to God, to the church, and to us, your brothers and sisters. We thank you for your guidance, your encouragement, your patience when we have been impatient, and your love when we may have been unlovable. May God continue to bless you as you continue to work for Him."

### Gates' Honored

Ruth and Royce Gates were honored at the monthly potluck at Martin House on Feb. 17. The Gates' came to Ashland from Akron, Ohio, in Nov. 1974 to serve as custodians at Martin House. They made it more than a job by initiating an activities program for residents, showing concern and helping in countless "second mile" ways.

The February potluck featured valentine candy cups and table decorations, the latter being given to residents with winning numbers. Joe Denbow, son of one of the residents and a teacher in the public schools, showed slides of old schools, teachers, and pupils in the area; some residents were able to see themselves "the way they were."

Ruth and Royce were presented with farewell gifts before the meal began. A corn popper, Mr. Coffee, and money were given by the residents for their service to Martin House. The Gates' moved to Buckeye Apartments in Ashland on March 1 where they are caring for maintenance and continuing their service in Ashland.

Each senior citizen was then presented a carnation as a token of the love and appreciation of the congregation.

Pastor Walk also challenged the entire congregation to avoid "grasshopperitis," saying God is bigger than all the giants we may face (Numbers 13).

The congregation chose one of its members as the "Senior Citizen of the Year," and this honor was bestowed upon Charles Grinder of Kepple Hill.

He has been very active in the work and ministry of the Pleasant View Brethren Church for many years. He has been a teacher, visitation leader, prayer warrior, and member of the deacon board.

Grinder was presented a plaque by Pastor Walk on behalf of the congregation.

Senior citizens who were also honored on this day were: Carl Armor, Mrs. Myrtle Adams, Walter W. Baum, Mrs. Gertrude Bowser, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Davis, Miss Thelma Fish, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grinder, Mr. and Mrs. Hartsell Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jenkins, Mrs. Elizabeth James, Mrs. Emily Johns, Mrs. Adia Kridler, Clarence Kridler, Mrs. Olive Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lowmaster, Mrs. Thelma Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mulhorn, Mr. and Mrs. David Rosensteel, Mrs. Eleanor Shawley, Mrs. Irene Sloan, Mrs. Martha Steward, Mrs. Edith Sappe, Mrs. Goldie Waldenville, Mr. and Mrs. Hilary Metzler, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tiger.

*Ed. note—Rev. Walk added this note to the article above which appeared in the local newspaper: "Thank you for the idea to pay honor to these fine people. It was an event long overdue and appreciated by not only those honored, but by all attending."*



Photo by Bruce Ronk

*The residents of Martin House enjoyed a potluck meal after Martin House resident Hilda Benepe presented farewell gifts to Ruth and Royce Gates.*





## Christian Education Resources

Keeping abreast of new concepts, methods, and materials in the field of Christian education is an important facet of a successful educational ministry and is often one which is hard to accomplish. We have listed below several publications which we feel are worthwhile in helping us in our effort to further our knowledge of how to deal with Christian education today. Maybe you will be able to use some of them in your own educational program.

**Probe** is a newsletter published ten times a year and is simply a resource for finding resources. A recent issue carried information on material such as **Our Wonderful, Colorful World**, a learning center activity for preschoolers; "Directory of Artists and Religious Communities"; **Youth Ministry Handbook**; "Guide for Recreation Leaders"; **Her Name is Woman**, a book which provides insight into 24 women in the Bible; and a 1976 Yurt Calendar. **Probe** not only carries a synopsis of the material, but also gives the

price and where you may order the material. **Probe** subscriptions are \$5.00/year and may be ordered from:

Dept. of Communications  
Christian Associates of  
S.W. Pennsylvania  
401 Wood St., 1800 Arrott Bldg.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Brethren House, at St. Petersburg, Florida, has published a new booklet entitled **Hands On Learning**. It contains reinforcement activities for Christian education. This publication is produced by Phil and Jean Lersch and Bonnie Munson at Brethren House and is based on their own work and activities with their ministry at St. Petersburg. Each activity explains what it can teach, how to make it, and how to use it. This useful booklet is available for \$3.00 and may be ordered from:

Brethren House  
6301 56th Avenue N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33709

### BOOKS FOR LEADERS

by Donna Simmons

**Make Learning a Joy** by Jim Larson, editor (Regal, 1975, 76 pp., \$1.45)

Whether or not you attend ICL, this book is a must for you if you are dedicated to feeding the flock of God.

If you have experienced ICL, you will find it a valuable aid as it has put into writing everything you learned. Perhaps you have not attended ICL. In that case, **Make Learning a Joy** will be even more valuable to you. You will be intrigued at how meaningful your teaching ministry can become and will find yourself joyfully learning.

We are reminded of the high calling God has bestowed upon teachers and leaders as we read I Peter 5:2-4 (LB):

Feed the flock of God; care for it willingly, not grudgingly; not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve the Lord. Don't be tyrants, but lead them by your good example, and when the Head

Shepherd comes, your reward will be a never-ending share in his glory and honor.

Doesn't this challenge you to make your ministry to children a joy? The book's purpose is to provide a concise summary of important guidelines for department leaders and teachers of elementary school age children in Sunday School and to make learning a joy!

Some of the topics covered are: how children learn, how to be a successful leader or teacher, answers to questions asked by teachers, how children worship, discipline with love (behavior challenges), room environment, time schedules, special emphasis Sundays, and much more.

I challenge every Sunday School leader and teacher to read and implement this book. You will find how much richer your ministry can be to children. Learning and teaching can grow into a real joy! "A wise teacher makes learning a joy" (Proverbs 15:2, LB).



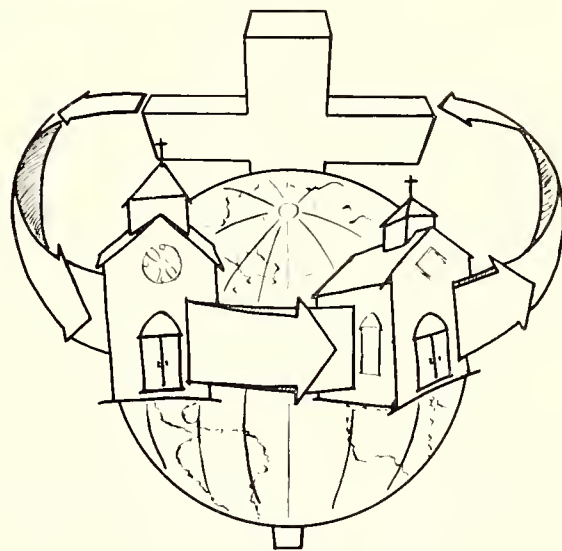
# church growth forum

## Setting Faith Goals

Setting faith goals for growth is an essential ingredient in building growth consciousness into a local congregation. These growth goals also give a sense of direction to the church and a means by which progress in growth can be evaluated. Faith goals should be set for growth in attendances, membership, and number of new converts during the next year and during the next five years. What are some of the things to be considered when setting goals?

1. The goals should be established in the light of a detailed research and analysis of the growth patterns of the church during the past ten years.
  2. Goals should be set in terms of obedience to the Great Commission which Christ has given to the church (Matthew 28:18-20).
  3. "Goals must be set in prayer. This must not be carnal, but spiritual. As you pray, God will guide you in setting the goals that will please Him.
  4. "Goals must be set in faith. When you project membership goals, you are asking the question: 'How many new disciples can I trust God to make through me and my church over the next five years?'"
  5. "Goals must be realistic. Christian goals must not be pipe dreams, reflecting only wishful thinking. You know your area, you know what has been done in the past, you know the strong and weak points of your congregation, and on the basis of all these things, you must project your goals" (see **God's Way to Keep a Church Going & Growing**, Vergil Gerber, pp. 62-63).
- A. Leonard Tuggy, writing out of the experiences of "Operation 200" in the Philippines, lists the following insights about goal-setting:
1. Goal-setting is absolutely essential for effective strategy planning.
  2. Goal-setting is best done in the light of past performances. The goals should be both challenging and attainable.
  3. Long range, overall goals are most meaningful when they are broken down to year-by-year, area-by-area goals.
  4. The setting of goals should be followed immediately by devising a practical plan by which the goals can be reached.
  5. New strategies often necessitate new structures.

**Does your church have growth goals?** If not, the official board or the church growth task force should set some growth goals. The above guidelines have been shared with you so that you can come up with meaningful goals as well as understand the value of goal-setting for growth.



### CHURCH GROWTH HONOR ROLL

Hats off to the Winding Waters Brethren Church of Elkhart, Ind. During 1975 they experienced a 39% increase in average morning worship attendance (from 95 in 1974 to 132 in 1975) and a 36% increase in church school attendance (from 53 in 1974 to 72 in 1975). This congregation has developed a five-year plan with growth goals for each of the five years. **WAF** is one of the growth programs for the Winding Waters church. It means **Win A Family** and is a challenge for every member of the church to win a family to Christ and the church during 1976. Pastor Fred Finks writes, "It is not a game. It is not a contest. It is for real. It is caring enough to ask someone about Christ."

What "growth" happenings are taking place in your church? What strategies have you developed and implemented to reach your growth goals? Send them to Arden E. Gilmer, 530 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805, so that they can be shared with the denomination through "Church Growth Forum."

### CHURCH GROWTH UPDATE

Progress is being made toward the goal of saturating our denomination with church growth seminars in 1976, with an April 2-3 seminar scheduled at Wabash, Ind. Rev. Duane Dickson will be the seminar leader, with participants coming from the Marion, Roann, College Corner, and Center Chapel Brethren churches. On May 14-15 Arden E. Gilmer will lead participants from the Pittsburgh, Brush Valley, Valley, and Pleasant View congregations through Church Growth Seminar One at Vandergrift, Pa. You can schedule Church Growth Seminar One for your church by contacting Arden E. Gilmer, Church Growth Coordinator.



# *auxiliary programs for may*

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## *laymen*

*May Inspirational  
prepared by  
J. Perry Deeter*

## *Does God Answer Prayer?*

**by Harold Sala**

Does God really answer prayer? Just for a moment let us presume that He does not. Let us assume that God does not hear us when we pray nor will He intervene on our behalf. Just where would this idea lead us?

First of all, what would we do with the verses in the Bible which tell us to pray? The Word of God says, "Pray without ceasing" (I Thess. 5:17); "Pray always with all prayer and supplication" (Eph. 6:18). These passages urge us to pray, and the Bible is full of such verses. But if God does not answer prayer, He has commanded us to do something that is a waste of time. More than that, He has tricked us and asked us to do something that is utterly meaningless. Is it not inconsistent with the nature of an all-wise God to tell us to pray if He never intends to answer?

The Bible commands us to pray; moreover, the Bible declares that God will answer prayer. "Whatsoever you shall ask in my name, that will I do," said Christ (John 14:13). "Ask and it shall be given you" (Matt. 7:7); "What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them and you shall have them" (Mark 11:24). Either these verses are true, or Christ was a liar. For if these verses are not true, we cannot put faith in anything Christ said because He claimed to be God, and, therefore, sinless.

Some hold the idea that whether or not God answers prayer, the human soul is uplifted by being in a prayerful attitude. They say that we can feel "near to God" when we pray and that is why God commands it. Now it is very true that prayer is communion with God, but what communion would there be in praying to a God who promises to answer prayer but does not keep His promise? It is illogical to suggest or think that God would encourage us to pray prayers He never intended to answer.

On the contrary, it is because God does answer prayer that we enjoy communion with Him. Because He is the one in whom we can put our trust, we enjoy communication with Him.

By assuming that God does not answer prayer, we create far more problems than we solve. For if God does not answer prayer, it is foolish for Him to say that He does.

Perhaps you say, "I can give you examples of prayer God never answered. My business was in trouble, and so I prayed that God would help me financially. But in a few weeks I went bankrupt." Or, "When my child was sick, I asked God to heal her . . . but she died. Now, explain that!"

We do not always know just why we do not see the answers to some of our prayers. Much of the answer to the problem lies entirely within the



## Does God Answer Prayer? (cont. from page 28)

wisdom of God. When we ask God to do things beyond our power, we must also remember that His wisdom is beyond our wisdom. Just as your children do not always understand when you must deny some of their requests, neither do we always understand God's dealings with us. God's wisdom is infinitely above ours. We may then rest assured that He will answer our prayer in the way that is best for us, even though we may not understand.

Here are three guidelines to prayer. First, we are to pray to God—not to demand things from Him. God is not a person to whom we can dictate and expect Him to obey our orders. Prayer is not string-pulling with a "divine office boy." Even Christ, the Son of God, prayed, "Nevertheless not as I will but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39). How much more should our prayers be "according to His will."

Second, when we pray, our hearts must be right with God. The Bible says, "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me" (Ps. 66:18). Ask God to cleanse your heart from sin; make things right with Him so that nothing stands between you and God.

Third, when you pray, believe that God will

answer your prayer. Pray with faith in your heart. Remember that God has promised to reward those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). The Bible says, "the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

\*From GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING by Harold J. Sala. Copyright 1972 by Baker Book House Company and used by permission.

## Thoughts for Laymen

Much has been written on the subject of prayer. I believe that the three guidelines that Mr. Sala gives us in his article are of the utmost importance. Certainly, we must not demand things from God, our hearts must be right with Him, and when we pray, we must have faith that God will answer our prayers. Of course, He might not answer them the way that we might like for Him to answer. This is the reason that we must always remember to ask the Lord to answer according to His will, and because of His infinite wisdom, the way in which He deals with our prayers is the best for us.

**For thought and/or discussion:**

1. What does "pray without ceasing" mean to you?
2. Should we take all things to God in prayer, or just the more important things?



## Laymen Sponsoring Church Signs

**RUSSIAVILLE (Ind.)**—The National Laymen's Organization has made available new Brethren church direction signs, according to Jim Payne, national president.

The basic sign consists of blue, red, and black lettering on a white luminous background, painted on a heavy gauge sheet of aluminum. Dimensions are 20 inches wide by 30 inches high.

Two basic messages may be purchased. One says, "First Brethren Church"; the other says simply, "Brethren Church," with room available for including the church name. Each sign also has the Brethren Church seal.

Purchase prices are: \$21.00 for signs painted on one side only; \$38.00 for both two sides; about \$5.00 per side for additional lettering.

The executive board of the National Laymen's Organization urges men in local churches to purchase and install the signs as a special project during the 1976 year.

## Wayne Heights Reports

**WAYNE HEIGHTS (Pa.)**—The Laymen of this Pennsylvania church put action into their faith in 1975.

Special projects included leading a monthly service at the Hagerstown (Four States) Rescue Mission and caring for the needs of an elderly member of the church.

Monthly meetings featured an illustrated message on the energy crisis by one of their members. Other programs included presentations by men of the community on distribution of Christian literature and slides from Israel.





May Program for Juniors  
written by  
Pauline Benshoff

## Our Youth Ministry

### Call to Worship:

Once I thought God dwelt in ivy-covered churches,  
And in the throaty organ notes.  
I waited for the hues of stained-glass windows passing  
Over the crowd like fairy floats.  
I could not worship without these things.  
  
Then I felt God dwelling in the sunset light,  
And in the sleepy chirp of birds.  
I waited for the rainbow colors of the night  
That scatters them in glowing herds.  
I could not worship without this light.  
  
But now I know God's greatest temple is my soul,  
In all of me, in every part.  
I wait until his rainbowed presence fills to fullness  
All the corridors of my heart.  
I cannot worship without that Presence.

**Singing Time:** Sing for the delight of singing together. Choose choruses or hymns that fit into this lesson.

**Scripture Lesson:** John 14:15-20 and Acts 2:28, 32, 39, 42.

**Prayer Circle:** The leader may choose the way she wants to conduct this prayer period.

**Leader's Opening Remarks:** In our scripture lesson when Jesus referred to "that day," he meant the coming of the Holy Spirit who would take Christ's place in their midst and be their comfort and guide. But you know, it also could mean any day for anyone, anywhere, who completely turns from self-will and yields herself to the ever-present Spirit, that we can know. What shall we know? Just what the disciples came to know. Six particular things come to mind that we can know, and I've asked six of you to respond. These are numbered, so will number one begin and just follow along in order. We will discuss what "we can know" after all six of you are finished.

**1. WE CAN KNOW THE WAY:** There came a new sense of direction to the disciples. They saw clearly that to walk the King's Highway was not a military road of might and power where swords flashed and chariots rolled, but rather the lowly path of ministry to others.

**2. WE CAN KNOW THE TRUTH:** They didn't learn it all at once, but there came an illumination that cut through the bandages of tradition covering their eyes, so that their darkness was changed to light and their perplexed groping to firm assurance. "The Truth can make you free": free to serve, free to obey, free from sin's bond-

age, free to tell others that Jesus is God's Son. He loves them and has a plan for their lives, too. He saves, He keeps, He satisfies!

**3. WE CAN KNOW LIFE:** They knew it not only by the testimony of others, but by personal experience they began to realize what Jesus had tried in vain to teach them: that eternal life didn't mean only a future life in heaven, but that it began here in this world. They were dominated by the "mind of the Spirit," witnessing because of a Spirit-filled life.

**4. WE CAN KNOW POWER:** The disciples learned that with God indwelling their soul, they had ability to achieve the impossible. We, too, can have power in our lives, a spiritual resource within when we allow it. Our lives lack spark and zip, enthusiasm, meaning and purpose when we will not allow the Spirit's power to permeate our lives. It takes meditation on God's Word, quiet time, much prayer and a desire to let the Holy Spirit perform His work through us.

**5. WE CAN KNOW FELLOWSHIP:** They knew fellowship they never dreamed possible before. It was fellowship with God and one another. The church, youth meetings, choir, Sunday church school, and Bible studies all should prove a wonderful source of enjoyment because God's people are together, being friendly, cheerful, warm, sympathetic, loving, kind, studying together, impartial, truthful, open, and being all things you think others should be. What a bond of Christian fellowship can be ours when God is in it!

**6. WE CAN KNOW OUR TASK:** The disciples themselves responded because they knew the high



# sisterhood

*Dear Sisters,*

*Joan McKinney, our national literature secretary, has some thoughts to share this month.*

*Don't miss the special announcements on the next page.*

*In His Service,  
Nancy Ronk*

Hi!

It's that time of the year when our eyes turn toward the cross and the empty tomb. Let's step back for a moment and reflect on the reason Christ died on the cross. For us as Christians our first response is usually that he died for our sins. But in II Corinthians 13:4 it states that Jesus was crucified because of weakness. Though in some minds sin and weakness may be one and the same, I want to look at it a little differently. It's not our weaknesses that are our sins, but it is the Devil knowing our weaknesses and where we fall most easily.

I can identify with Paul in II Corinthians 12, where he talks about having a "thorn in the flesh" or a weakness in his life. I know in my own life I have had a certain "thorn in the flesh" ever since I can remember, and that is a love for food. It is not easy for me to admit this; I guess none of us like to admit to having faults. What I am really ashamed of is that I have not been able to overcome it completely. I have had partial success but never a complete victory. It's not loving food that is the sin, but it's the way I let it rule my life—giving it first priority.

Sometimes I wish He hadn't given me a thorn that sticks out so far. Then my mind usually turns to Romans 8:28: "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." I have leaned on that verse often. God put that thorn there for a reason, and it's up to me to have enough faith to take him at his word.

I'm sure all of us have some kind of weakness

to overcome. If you have been able to overcome it, congratulations. If you haven't, then join the group because you are far from being alone.

Some verses that have really helped me in my struggle to overcome are found in II Corinthians 12:7-10. Here Paul is talking about his "thorn in the flesh." He says that because of his weakness he is prevented from exalting himself. If being overweight doesn't do that to a person, I don't know what does. In verse 9 he says that he would rather boast about his weakness, that the power of Christ might swell in him. So far, I'm afraid, I haven't been able to boast of my weakness. But I don't think he wants us to actually brag about it. I get the idea that he wants us to be able to admit that we are human with human faults.

It seems to me that people expect us, as Christians, to be perfect and not to act as human beings. Could Paul be telling us here that we should admit our weaknesses to others? Could we allow ourselves to let down and show our weaknesses to a non-Christian, to tell them how Christ is helping us in our struggle to overcome these weaknesses?

Some of the best ways that the Lord has helped me is through my weakness. It has forced me many times to the Scripture and into deep prayer. It has kept me from thinking too highly of myself and thinking too lowly of others.

I think people would be able to accept us more and respect us if we would be honest. Christ died for our weakness, and it seems to me only right to let others know it.

Have a blessed Easter,  
Joan McKinney

---

## Our Youth Ministry

**(cont. from page 30)**

calling whereto they were called. They began and continued to show the new life. A change was apparent; others could see it. They began to use the new power to make known to others what they knew. That's all witnessing is, just telling others what God has done and what He has done for you. You do know what He has done for you, don't you? God wants to do all those wonderful

things for others, too. He doesn't want any to perish.

**Rap Time:** What ministries for youth involvement did you find in our study tonight? (Perhaps it would be good to use a flip chart or just a piece of chart paper to enumerate the things or ways youth can become involved in the ministries of church growth and fellowship.)

**Closing Chorus:** Let the Beauty of Jesus Be Seen in Me

**Business:**

**SMM Benediction**



SMM Board to Meet

The next meeting of the National Sisterhood Board will be on SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1976, at 1:00 p.m. at the Meadow Crest Brethren Church, Fort Wayne, Ind. If you are an SMM member or patroness in your church, you are invited and encouraged to attend. We will be making final plans for National Conference in August. Come, join us in planning for this area of the Lord's work.

1976 SMM Scholarship

This year the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha of the Brethren Church will award a scholarship in the amount of \$200 to an active Sisterhood girl for her freshman year at the college of her choice.

To receive an application for the scholarship, please fill in this form (or a facsimile) and return to: Nancy Ronk, 227 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805. Please fill in all information.

**SMM Scholarship**

I would like to receive an application for the 1976 SMM Scholarship.

My name is:

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school address

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Return this form to:

Nancy Ronk  
227 College Ave.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Be sure to include all information.

May Program  
written by  
Alberta Holsinger

Call to Worship:

Will you serve God today;  
Will you serve Him any way He asks?  
Will you listen, pray, and read;  
Then go where Jesus says, "I need  
You now"?

PROJECT: Medical Outreach in India

Rama's Answer

Rama opened his eyes, yawned, and stretched. Just then the shopkeeper opened the door and saw Rama in the corner where he had spent the night.

"Go away," he shouted angrily. "You are not to sleep in the doorway of my store!"

Rama ran quickly down the narrow street. It was the same every morning. At night he would curl up in the shelter of a doorway. In the morning the owner would chase him away.

Rama lived in Rajahmundry, India. He was seven years old. He had no mother or father. He slept wherever he happened to be at night. He ate whatever food he could find. Most days he found very little. He was always hungry.

This morning he darted down an alley behind a fruit store. What luck! The owner had left a basket of papaya on the cart while he carried another basket into the shop.

Rama grabbed a papaya from the basket as he ran by. He rounded a corner quickly before the shopkeeper saw him.

Wham! He collided with a pair of long legs. When Rama looked up, he saw the smiling face of a tall American.

"Hello," said the man. "My, you are in a hurry!"

"Yes," answered Rama, "very big hurry. Sorry I bumped you."

He started to run on but the man caught him by the arm.

"My name is Mr. Miller. I have a son Larry," he said. "Larry would like to meet some Indian children. Will you come back to the hotel with me?"

Rama looked at Mr. Miller carefully. Then he answered, "I will come."

On the way he told Mr. Miller that he had no parents, no home, and seldom any food.

"Perhaps we can help you," said Mr. Miller. "We will see."



## Two Missionaries

Paul and Silas were missionaries. They traveled from one country to another, from one city to another. They went to many places to tell the people of Jesus.

Some people were glad to learn of the Savior. They listened carefully to everything Paul and Silas told them. They believed Jesus was the Messiah sent from God.

Others listened but did not believe.

In some cities the people shouted unkind things at Paul and Silas. In others, they threw stones at them. At still others the missionaries were put in jail for telling the people of Jesus.

In Thyatira they were arrested for teaching of the Savior. They were beaten across the backs with whips and put in prison.

Their backs hurt. They could not sleep. They prayed to God. They sang praises to Him. In the middle of the night the other prisoners heard them singing and praying.

"How can those men sing?" they wondered. "They have been beaten and are in jail with chains about their hands and feet."

Suddenly, a great earthquake violently shook the prison. The doors were flung open, and the chains fell from the prisoners' hands and feet.

"The prisoners will escape!" shouted the guard. "The prisoners will escape!"

"No, we are all here," called Paul.

The guard rushed to their cell. "Your God has caused this earthquake to free you. He is a great God. What shall I do to be saved?"

"Believe on the Lord Jesus," answered Paul.

The guard took them to his home. He washed their sore backs. His wife fixed food for them.

Then the guard called his family and servants. "Come to hear of the great God."

Paul and Silas told them of God's love. They told them of Jesus the Savior. The people believed what the missionaries told them. They accepted Jesus as their Savior.

In the morning the judge sent a message to the guard. "Let those men go," the message said. "They have done no wrong."

Paul and Silas were glad to serve God. They were glad to tell people of Jesus. They were good missionaries.

Someday God may want you to be a missionary. Will you go wherever He wants you? Will you go gladly?

(Based on Acts 16:16-40.)

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### Next Month in Signal Lights

—We'll find out how Rama and Larry become friends...

—And we'll learn how Philip, a preacher, served God.

---

I Cor. 10:16—The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the Communion of the blood of Christ?

#### "A CUP OF PEACE"

Examine yourself, my friend,  
And if you worthy be  
Drink of the cup of blessing  
And peace shall come to thee.  
It passeth all understanding  
We seek for words to say  
How glorious it is to walk with Him  
And follow in His way.  
Cry out if you are lonely.  
He knows just how you feel.  
He hears and heeds and heals each hurt.  
His love for you is real.  
Though Lord of all the universe,  
Concern for you won't cease  
Until repentance brings you in  
To drink the cup of peace.

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While in Washington, D.C., this year,  
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10, 11, and 7:15

Wednesday evening:  
7:30

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Pastor Bob Keplinger  
Washington Brethren Church  
3140 Q Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020



## Really Born Again?

**Born Again** by Charles W. Colson (Chosen Books/distributed by Fleming H. Revell, 1976, 351 pp., \$8.95)

December, 1973. Newspaper headlines proclaimed the unlikely: "Colson Has 'Found Religion.'" Syndicated columnists mused on the subject, and Eric Sevareid even devoted one night's commentary to it. Could it really be true that the so-called "Nixon Hatchet Man" had accepted Christ, or was it a cheap ploy to fool a grand jury and move a nation to leniency?

I opened Colson's book (the first to appear by one of the five men closest to Richard Nixon prior to and during the Watergate crisis) with both skepticism and intrigue. But having read Woodward and Bernstein's **All the President's Men**, I was eager to learn more of this notorious individual. What I found brought satisfaction and praise to the Lord.

Colson is a common American with an uncommon love for his country. This devotion to his nation—and to its President—proved to be his downfall, not because that commitment was necessarily wrong but because it blinded his vision to those outside the inner circle of the Oval Office.

Interestingly, his conversion did not come at a time when he was under serious threat of indictment. Instead, it came when he was restless about his life and about the political aura of Washington. It ultimately resulted from an evening spent with a client (Colson was a lawyer at the time) and a week of careful study of C. S. Lewis' **Mere Christianity** during the summer of 1973.

Many difficult days lay ahead for him—continual meetings with Watergate prosecutors, hours with the special grand jury, an appearance before a hostile Sam Ervin committee, scorn from neighbors and friends, and finally indictment and imprisonment. Yet his faith continued strong, largely due to the encouragement he received from a closely-knit group of Congressmen and other government officials who also knew the power of the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

The book is a fascinating case history of how God brings men to repentance and of how the effects of the sins of a former lifestyle are not easily erased.

In addition to sharing his own experience, Colson gives an indepth look into the lives of Richard Nixon, John Dean, H. R. Haldeman, and others on the inside of the Nixon White House. His revelations are at times startling and sometimes humorous; his evaluations are always insightful.

If you are sick of Watergate, I urge you to read **Born Again**. It will give you a fresh look at the American political scene and give you assurance that God is involved in our world (even the world of Washington, D.C.).

And, by the way, after reading the book there is no doubt in my mind that Colson is a brother in Christ.

—Ronald W. Waters, Ashland, Ohio

### "Teach us to pray"

**When You Pray** by Harold Lindsell (Baker Book House, 1975, 182 pp., \$2.95)

**Jesus Teaches on Prayer** by Ray C. Stedman (Word, 1975, 184 pp., \$4.95)

This statement by the disciples resulted in what we call "The Lord's Prayer," a pattern which Jesus presented for us. I have heard numerous messages and have read a number of articles expounding on this prayer. However, recent writings on prayer have renewed a personal interest, requiring me to say, "Lord, teach me to really pray." I'd like to recommend these two books which have been helpful to me.

Dr. Lindsell, editor of Christianity Today and former professor at Fuller Theological Seminary and Wheaton College, writes as a teacher, talking about the principles governing prayer. I started to read it as a "quickie," but I didn't get far before I started again with pen in hand. It is most effective when studied thoroughly, as a textbook, followed by time for meditation on the various examples.

Dr. Stedman, author of **Body Life** and pastor of Peninsula Bible Church, begins his book with several general chapters on prayer which focus on this statement: "We must either be praying or fainting—there is no other alternative." As the title indicates, the book revolves around what Jesus himself had to say on the subject.

Stedman examines carefully "The Disciples' Prayer" (what we commonly call "The Lord's Prayer"). The final chapters study the true "Lord's Prayer"—the prayer Jesus prayed the night before His crucifixion, which is recorded in John 17. This prayer summed up His ministry on earth and outlined His expectations for His disciples of all future ages.

Use these books to guide you in your own study of the subject, with your Bible alongside at all times. Then practice what you have studied, and see how it changes your life.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio


*The Brethren Evangelist welcomes book reviews from its readers. Reviews should be typed, double-spaced, and average 200-250 words in length. Include title, author, publisher, year of publication, number of pages, and cost. Reviews of books published most recently will be given priority.*



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#### WORLD HUNGER FACTS

Every minute 10 people die from starvation!  
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#### FOOD FOR THE BODY — FOOD FOR THE SOUL

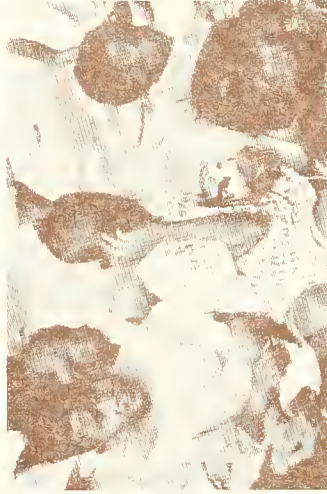
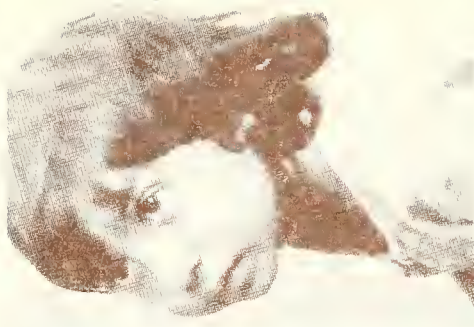
For over 30 years, World Relief Commission has been the channel of Christian help and hope to millions of people distressed by war and natural disaster. Our theme, "Food for the Body and Food for the Soul" is consistently demonstrated by the fact that whenever physical help is given, spiritual help is also given in a manner suitable to the occasion.

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ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

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North Manchester, IN 46962

# HELP FEED A HUNGRY WORLD



## WORLD RELIEF HUNGER BANK

### POP CAN LABEL

Yes, this is actually the reproduction of a wrap-around label for a **soda pop can**. Every Brethren church has received a large supply of these for use during World Relief month in April.

By moistening the gummed backing, it will convert an ordinary pop can into a bank for you and/or your family. Nothing spectacular . . . just a convenient means of "putting feet on our concern." Ask your pastor about one for you!

*"If someone who is supposed to be a Christian has money enough to live well, and sees a brother in need, and won't help him—how can God's love be within him? Little children, let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions." —I John 3:17, 18, LB*



*The Brethren*

# EVANGELIST

May 1976

Funderburg Library  
Manchester College  
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*Focus on Brethren Youth*



*see page 8*

**Also in this issue:**

*Brethren Youth Look at Their Church*

*Let Freedom Ring*





Where is he going  
so fast?

He wants a good seat  
when they dedicate  
the new bookstore  
at General Conference!



*Make plans now to attend  
the dedication of the Carpenter's  
Shop*

*August 12, 1976*

*It won't be as much fun  
if you're not there.*



# The Brethren EVANGELIST

May 1976  
Vol. 98  
No. 5

## 4 Brethren Youth Look At Their Church

*Ron Waters summarizes the comments of nine youth.*

## 7 History of Brethren Youth Ministry

*Stephen Barber presents a brief overview of the background of our ministry to youth, from Holsinger to the present.*

## 10 Preparing for Peace Sunday

*Donna Stoffer reviews this year's study book on peace.*

## 11 Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

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### editors' notes

Dear Reader,

"Where the young people are today is where the church will be tomorrow." These words were penned by S. J. Harrison, editor of the Brethren Evangelist, in 1893. They are so obviously true that they border on being a cliché. Yet we must weigh them heavily as we, the Brethren Church, plan for the next 5, 10, and 25 years.

I think you'll be intrigued (as I was) by the comments of several youth about their church (page 4). Read the summary carefully. Then review the history of Brethren youth ministry (page 7) and the information on its directions for the future (page 8).

Watch the Update news sections of each upcoming issue for more information on this year's General Conference (page 19 in this issue). Make your plans now to attend the gala festivities, Aug. 9-13. Hope to see you there.

—Ron Waters

MEMBER  EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION



# Brethren Youth Look

In an attempt to gain a better understanding of the attitudes and opinions of Brethren youth toward the Brethren Church, Fred Burkey and I interviewed a group of nine Brethren college students in March.

Participating in the discussion were:

Kaye Bolton, freshman, special education major, Dayton, Ohio;

Susan Michael, junior, elementary/reading education, Gratis, Ohio;

Mark Baker, junior, religion, North Manchester, Ind.;

Ann Oxenrider, freshman, speech pathology and audiology, Bryan, Ohio;

Bill Kerner, sophomore, chemistry, Roann, Ind.;

Jeannie Hesketh, freshman, nursing home administration, Vandergrift, Pa.;

Lynn Mercer, sophomore, religion, North Georgetown, Ohio;

John Lersch, freshman, education, St. Petersburg, Fla.; and

Clara Bolton, freshman, special education, Dayton, Ohio.

As we shared together, our thoughts fell into three categories: local church ministries, denominational programs, and dreams for the future.

We asked the students first which ministries in their home churches merit more emphasis and which they believe should be modified or eliminated. Most responses dealt with Christian education or worship.

Concern was expressed for the young adults in the church, particularly those of college age or slightly older. One mentioned a serious lack of young adults in her church. Others felt that the needs of young adults, especially of those who are single, are given little consideration in their churches. The interests of single young adults differ from those of high school students or married couples, and they are at times frustrated in their attempt to find meaningful fellowship.

Several other concerns about Christian education were voiced. One youth considered the traditional Sunday school opening to be a waste of valuable class time that could be better utilized

Photos by Bruce Ronk



**Kaye Bolton**

"I think young adults fall away from the church because there are not many meaningful activities for them with people their own age."

**Susan Michael**

"Rather than the traditional Sunday school opening, I'd like to see classes have their own opening, to encourage more fellowship among class members."



**Mark Baker**

"The interests of young married couples are different from those of single college and career people. . . . Some churches are recognizing this and programming accordingly."



# At Their Church

by Ronald W. Waters

for additional teaching or class fellowship. Another desired to see ministry to younger children upgraded through use of more innovative teaching methods. There was also a feeling that adults profit more from a wider selection of study materials than they do from an educational program in which everyone studies the same lesson.

Regarding worship, the students have some interest in the use of music which speaks to present-day needs and in current vocabulary. A few shared how their churches were beginning to use some contemporary songs in worship. They also expressed appreciation for the concept of teaching in the worship service and prefer sermons which utilize some form of visual illustration and reinforcement.

A variety of thoughts were shared about their local youth groups. Several emphasized the severe need for youth advisors. They observed that the lack of adults willing to serve in this capacity stems from the following: lack of training, fear of the youth and fear of failure, and an unwillingness to take the necessary time.

A particular need exists for discovering and meeting spiritual needs of the youth. Social needs seem to be cared for naturally. The fact that youth are at such different levels of maturity, spiritually and otherwise, adds to the challenge.

Their response to the current church growth emphasis in the Brethren Church was eye opening. Initial response indicated skepticism, but after further discussion, most readily admitted that they knew little about the principles of church growth. This discovery pinpointed the need to keep college students informed of developments in their local churches and in the Brethren Church as a whole, since they are often outside the mainstream of life in a local church during their college years. (Ed. note—As a result of this particular discovery, a "mini church growth seminar" was conducted during the April National BYC Council meeting to inform the national youth leaders of the objectives of church growth.)

They did note that the approaches presented for Christian witness are often too few and too

*(continued on next page)*

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## Ann Oxenrider

"I think we need to upgrade our ministry to younger children. The public schools are trying to use better teaching methods, and we need to do likewise."



## Bill Kerner

"I'd like to see more Brethren kids involved in the ministry and activities on campus. There seems to be more participation this year, but I wish others would see it as a way to serve and grow."

## Jeannie Hesketh

"I'm thankful for the spiritual training I've received in my church, . . . and for the opportunity of discovering my life goal — nursing — through the Crusader program."





limited in scope. A few said they are comfortable with door-to-door visitation or with use of booklets such as the "Four Spiritual Laws"; others were struggling to find a method which fits their own personality and which would be effective for them.

Eight of the nine youth participating in the discussion are students at Ashland College. Commenting on the campus ministry sponsored by the Brethren Church, several wished that Brethren young people on campus would become more involved in the overall program. A need for more discipleship among the Christian students was mentioned.

With regard to the Summer Crusader program, about half had served as Crusaders during previous summers. They shared how their involvement had helped them to grow in their spiritual lives, to discover and train for future vocations in the church, and to meet many gracious and committed people.

The youth who had not participated as Crusaders told of changes they had seen as a result of the program. They discussed how it had revitalized some local Brethren Youth groups, how it had brought about change in the lives of both the Crusaders and the people with whom they came in touch, and how it had affected the spirit of the General Conference. They also stated that though at times the Crusader program had not brought immediate changes in participants or churches visited, often it at least planted the seeds for growth.

Finally, the youth shared some of their dreams for themselves and for the Brethren Church. Most

expressed appreciation for the training they had received in their local churches and for the preparation this had given them for the present and the future. A predominant theme in their comments was a desire to use their talents and educational training for their Lord and, if possible, for the Brethren Church.

As a result of these discussions, we noted the following thoughts: 1) As a church, we must strive to understand the needs of the youth and young adults in our local congregations. After discovering these needs, we must develop ways to satisfy them that are as contemporary as the young people themselves and that produce effective results. 2) Local Brethren Youth groups continue to require committed, trained adult leadership. 3) We must seek alternative approaches to Christian witness. Also, we must encourage our youth to develop contacts outside the church, both for witness and for added fellowship and growth. 4) We must provide our youth with challenging opportunities for training and open possibilities for them to use their abilities within the Brethren Church. 5) Finally, we must be in continual dialog with Brethren youth. Their criticisms and suggestions will cause us to struggle with the needs of our church and our world, and their dreams for what can be will inspire us to press forward in the work God has laid before us.

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*Ron Waters is managing editor of the Brethren Evangelist and coordinates the creative arts department of the Brethren Publishing Company.*

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### **Lynn Mercer**

"I'm excited because I see a lot of people my age training to be pastors or planning to serve in other ways.... I also see an openness to ideas from young people."



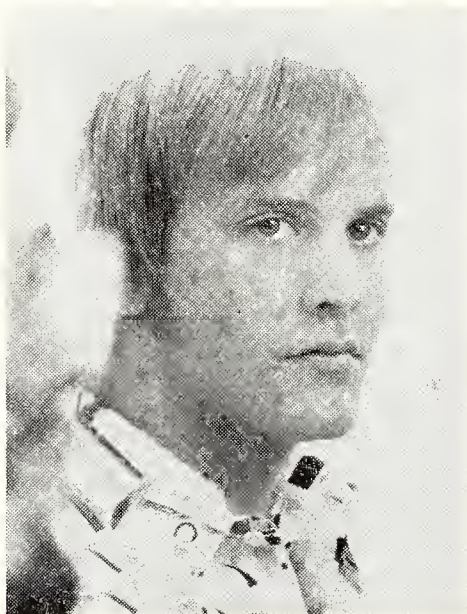
### **Clara Bolton**

"I've been coming to General Conference since I was pretty young. Since the Summer Crusader program started, there has been a new spirit at Conference."



### **John Lersch**

"I've had a chance to look at Brethren youth and adults from afar (being from Florida); ... but I can see a difference over the past few years, from the contacts I've had."





# History of Brethren Youth Ministry

*An overview, from Holsinger to the present.*

*by Stephen Barber*

The history of Brethren youth ministry began more than 100 years ago when H. R. Holsinger became convinced that there was great potential among the youth of the church. He and other leaders of the progressive movement realized that few channels existed for the cultivation of that potential, so in the 1860's Holsinger made an effort to remedy that situation by publishing the Pious Youth, a periodical specifically designed for Brethren young people.

## Early organizations

In 1884, Lottie Holsinger made an attempt to unify the youth scattered across the denomination. The purpose of her organization, the Dewdrops, was to emphasize missions. Elder Joseph Beer formed a club soon after this called the Band of Hope, which focused on the ideas of temperance and non-swearing.

Both the Dewdrops and the Band of Hope were organized only on a national level, and they lacked the necessary local structure. They were, however, significant starting points for the organization of Brethren youth.

The first recorded attempts at purposeful local organization for youth came from the Illiokota district in 1890. Milledgeville and Lanark, Illinois, were the first two churches to begin societies of the King's Children. In 1891, the Elkhart, Indiana, church began the first King's Children society outside of the Illiokota district, and in 1893 the General Conference gave the society national recognition by appointing a board of directors.

About this same time other local youth societies were being formed. For instance, a work similar to the King's Children was being developed in Kanemorado district churches under the name of the Guild. However, the King's Children, the Guild, and

other organizations were soon overshadowed by an interdenominational organization known as Christian Endeavor.

## Christian Endeavor

The Young People's Society for Christian Endeavor had begun in 1881 and had grown rapidly since that time. By the 1890's, when it was introduced into the Brethren Church, it had become a world-wide organization of over 26,000 local societies. Christian Endeavor programs were supported in the local churches, and in 1901 the society was endorsed by the General Conference as the Brethren Church's ministry to its youth. The next few decades were years of great growth and success.

Also in the early 1900's, another form of ministry flourished—the publication of printed materials designed specifically for youth. Excellent Sunday School literature was written, lessons and helps for Christian Endeavor societies were produced, and numerous pamphlets were published for the young people.

Eventually, however, harmony and success in the youth work led to a feeling of self-satisfaction, and stagnation began to occur. Many local Christian Endeavor societies were functioning in name only. In addition, the youth work was overshadowed by church controversy in the 1930's. It took until the mid-1940's for aid to come to the struggling youth ministry.

## Brethren Youth Crusaders

Gil Dodds, Woodrow Brant, and Archie Martin formulated and initiated the idea of the Brethren Youth organization we know today. In March of 1946 these three men incorporated Brethren Youth in the state of Ohio as a first step toward a denomination-wide ministry. Their organization soon began to replace the failing Christian Endeavor. It was during the 1946 General Conference that the first youth conference was held. The General Conference created

*(continued on page 31)*

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*Stephen Barber is a senior at Ashland College and has begun graduate study at Ashland Theological Seminary. He is also a past moderator of National Brethren Youth.*



# christian education

National Brethren Youth has

## REAL POSSIBILITIES



by Dr. Frederick T. Burkey

With every passing year I become more fully convinced that God has a plan for the Brethren Church and that National Brethren Youth is an important part of that plan. In this Bicentennial year, we are repeatedly urged to review our heritage as a people—and that is good, to a point. History provides many insights for nations and for the church.

Recent American history has produced an abundance of sad lessons which have to be learned. We all suffer because of the corruption in high offices, ill-advised wars, and the uncertainties of a worldwide energy crisis. In the midst of all this, I wonder if we wouldn't do better to concentrate on a plan for a brighter future.

God is with us just as He was with Moses at the seashore. Faced with an impossible situation, Moses prayed. God responded: "... get the people moving! Forward march!" (Exodus 14:15, LB). We believe that God is saying to our young people "... get moving! Forward march!"

From across the denomination there are encouraging signs that Brethren youth are responding as never before to the call to Christian service. How timely this response is! With our developing church growth movement, increasing numbers of young men and women will have to be recruited, trained, and sent out as harvesters.

Do you know of a promising young person who might be contacted about full-time Christian service? Have you ever really asked a young person how he feels God would have him invest his life? Are you alert to the gifts your young people possess . . . and do you encourage them to put those gifts and talents to work for Christ and the Church?

I have the pleasure of working with Brethren youth, and I know that more could be recruited if you would take seriously the questions above. Young people are **not** hostile; they appreciate genuine concern. They are looking for guidance as they explore

the myriad of vocational options open to them. What challenge could be higher than that of "going . . . making disciples . . . baptizing . . . and teaching" as our Lord commanded?

In the next few years, we envision growing Brethren churches in a dozen new locations. This means that our evangelistic efforts will have to be redoubled; funds will have to be raised for buildings, materials, and salaries. But all this is to no avail if we lack the called, trained men and women to provide aggressive leadership.

The potential is here. National Brethren Youth has real possibilities. But there is much work to be done. The Board of Christian Education is committed to assist, wherever possible, in the development of the human resources God has given the church. Our ministry is intended to supplement or extend that of the local and district Christian education and youth programs. Working together we can, and will, realize the goal God has for the Brethren Church and National Brethren Youth.

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### NATIONAL BYC COUNCIL EXAMINES POSSIBILITIES

A large part of fulfilling our dreams for the future is to discuss them with fellow Christians and to study their possibilities in our lives.

At the April meeting of the National BYC Council, members and guests were challenged to pursue their dreams and search for the Lord's leading for their lives. Together they explored church growth, Christian vocations, and tentmaking ministries as opportunities for exercising their responsibility to carry forward the work of our Lord and the Brethren Church.

We are thankful for the positive leadership these young people are demonstrating as they seek to build the church of today and tomorrow.





*Above is the new National Brethren Youth symbol, designed by Ashland College student Jon Barber. It symbolizes a new thrust for the young people and their national organization.*

## ***Dawning of a New Youth Ministry***

While the United States reflects on its past two hundred years as a free nation, the Brethren Church is also reflecting on our heritage and our hope and freedom in Christ. National Brethren Youth Crusaders are also celebrating and, in doing so, have adopted a new symbol for the organization. Our symbol is characteristic of the boldness, growth, and unity generated in the Brethren youth of today. The cliché, "the youth of today are the church of tomorrow," has a more dynamic truth to it than we often recognize. The Holy Spirit is working through National Brethren Youth, and the youth are receptive

to His leading. They realize the necessity of a strong role in the work of the Lord and are responding to the call.

Active leadership is characteristic of Brethren youth, and the responsibility of tomorrow's leadership will be well handled by tomorrow's leaders. Our boldness, growth, and unity in Christ are building blocks for tomorrow's Brethren Church, and the new symbol reminds us of our obligation to Christ and His Church, and our church. Join Brethren youth in their goals and objectives to serve Him and the Brethren Church!

### **Support National Brethren Youth**

During the month of May, we request your financial support through class, church, or personal contributions. Your gift allows the Board of Christian Education to provide the administrative services necessary for the denominational youth ministry so vital to a growing Brethren Church. Your personal offering may be given through your local church via the denominational envelope provided. Special gifts may be sent to:

Board of Christian Education  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

### **Bicentennial Filmstrips Now Available**

To help you in your celebration of the Bicentennial, we now have available a new series of filmstrips for rental. Entitled "One Nation Under God," this series focuses on the role and necessity of God in our lives and in the life of the United States. These full color, sound filmstrips are a valued addition to any Bicentennial happening. Order numbers and titles are listed below.

- FS-L7601 "Foundations of Religious Freedom"
- FS-L7602 "Church & State: The Struggle Begins"
- FS-L7603 "Religion and the New Nation"
- FS-L7604 "Safeguarding our Heritage"



# Preparing for Peace Sunday

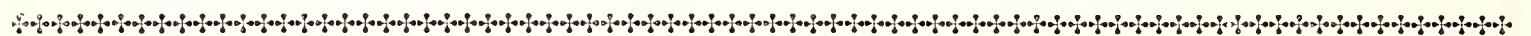
Peace Sunday, 1976, will be observed on Sunday, July 4. To assist local churches in studying the subject, the Peace Committee of General Conference has selected as a study guide the book **Peace—On Not Leaving It to the Pacifists**.

Below is a critique of the book. The June issue of the Brethren Evangelist will carry summaries of the book's chapters for assis-

tance in study and discussion. Needless to say, the committee recommends that churches and individuals purchase the book and plan time for detailed study.

The Peace Committee hopes that Brethren will take the opportunity of the celebration of our Bicentennial to examine more carefully this aspect of our heritage.

—The Peace Committee



**Peace—On Not Leaving It to the Pacifists** by Gerald O. Pedersen, editor (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1975, 88 pp., \$2.95).

How do you feel about the Vietnam conflict now that it is all over? I prefer not even to think about it. I feel like a poorly prepared dogcatcher called into an area beyond his jurisdiction to capture one of a pack of allegedly vicious killers. Not realizing how much help I needed to subdue even one animal, I hopelessly watched the dog I had caught in my net slash his way out. Fearing the pack his howls had summoned, I jumped into my truck, taking along part of the family who had called me to capture the one. We all hastily left the area and did not rest until we reached the safety of my own county. I think I was a fool for going in the first place—but hindsight is always easier than foresight.

That may be a poor analogy, but the feelings of frustration as an American are there. More importantly, what is my attitude as a Christian toward war and peace? Gerald O. Pedersen, pastor of Olives Lutheran Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., and formerly campus pastor of San Francisco University and a chaplain at the University of East Africa in Tanzania, has edited a thought-provoking book entitled: **Peace—On Not Leaving It to the Pacifists**. In the June issue of the Brethren Evangelist, the Peace Committee will review for you these addresses presented at peace symposiums held at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, and California Lutheran College, Thousand Oaks.

I am challenged by the ideas presented in this book, as I hope you will be. I am no pacifist; in fact, I debated whether to accept a position on the Peace Committee. Our son Dick was in the Army; Tom, in World War II; my father, in World War I; my greatgrandfather (whom I remember), in the Civil War; and a grandfather with a few extra great's was in the Revolution. They risked their lives, and I respect them for their convictions. On the other hand, I respect the young man who for religious convictions chooses alter-

native service. I am grateful that my country recognizes conscientious objectors. Though not a pacifist, I long and pray for that elusive world peace. I know how the mothers of the world down through the centuries have felt when they have seen a son leave for service during wartime.

What appeals to me about this book is the attitude that each of us can do something about peace, that peace comes not accidentally, but intentionally. As Gerhard Belgum points out in his preface, we can drop our jargon, our defenses, and our hostilities and share with one another in Jesus' name; and we can seriously consider the Holy Scriptures.

True, it is hard to steer a course among the paradoxes of Jesus' own words: "Blessed are the peacemakers," and "I come to bring not peace, but a sword." He warns us "there will be wars and rumors of wars." Should we, then, not even attempt to work for peace? When He says, "My Kingdom is not of this world," is He advocating a theocracy, a pacifist ideal, a monastic ideal, or a Christian ghetto? Could the same man advocate the turn-the-other-cheek philosophy of the Sermon on the Mount who also called the honorable scribes and Pharisees a generation of snakes-in-the-grass?

But when we as Christians actively "seek peace and pursue it" (Pedersen's preface title taken from I Peter 3:11 and Psalm 34:14), we will be closer to God's will and to understanding what Jesus meant when He said, "Peace I leave with you, my own peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world does. Do not be worried and upset."

And so ours is Christ's church; it must reflect Him. We must do His work in this world. Though we meet with opinions different from our own even among Christians, and with seeming inconsistencies in the Holy Scriptures, the eternal message comes through loud and clear: "Little children, love one another, as He loves you."

Please join us, Brethren, and share the message of this book with your Peace Committee in the months ahead.

—Donna Stoffer, Canton, Ohio



Park Street asks members to

# Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

by Charles Beekley

During one of the task force meetings following our church growth seminar at the Ashland Park Street Church, we explored ways of developing a new awareness of the wonderful fellowship that can be developed among the body of believers. A suggestion was made that members and friends of the church could be brought closer in Christian friendship by joining together in small groups to share the Sunday meal. We chose to call our program "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," because, as you will see shortly, there was an element of surprise in the program.

"Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" was initiated, based upon the following objectives:

1. To foster Christian fellowship within the body of believers at Park Street Brethren Church and encourage closer ties of friendship between members who may not know each other.

2. To lay the groundwork for an ongoing program of Christian fellowship to strengthen inner ties and build new opportunities for outreach.

3. To provide a means of building friendships between church visitors and members of the congregation.

The program was accomplished by asking each member of the congregation to complete a simple form, indicating their family structure and whether the family desired to be a "host" or "guest" family. Then a sub-committee of task force paired the family units according to their expressed desire for the Sunday being planned.

The sub-committee notified each "host" family of their "guest" list for the following Sunday, and they arranged for each of the "guest" families to contribute to the meal at the "host" home. A certain element of surprise was maintained in that the "guest" families did not know who else would be at the "host" home upon their arrival.

After the morning worship on the designated Sunday, "guest" families traveled to the home of the "host" family and an enjoyable time of Christian fellowship and culinary satisfaction was had by all.

In pairing the "guests" and "hosts," an effort was deliberately made to match families in the church who were not well acquainted. In every case, after a slight period of awkwardness, friendships began to develop where only cordial greetings had existed previously.

The first "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" Sundays were preceded by an extensive publicity campaign within the church. An article in the church paper, announcements in the bulletin, special insert sheets in the bulletin, posters throughout the church, and even an "information booth" in the narthex were used to help familiarize the congregation with the concept and procedures of the program.

If you're interested in planning a "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" program in your church, a few things should be kept in mind:

1. As many people as possible should participate. The more participants, the more opportunities there will be to get to know other believers and to develop Christian friendships with them.

2. A good publicity campaign is necessary to "sell" the idea—to get people excited about the program.

3. The people working with the administration of the program have to be excited about it—because they will encounter some skeptics who want to enjoy the program but may not be sure it's for them.

4. All participating families at the meal should make a contribution to the meal, under the guidance of the hostess. This gives her an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship, too, and not be as worried about her hostess "duties."

Acts 2:46 says: "...they frequented the temple together, and ate their meals at home together." This is part of the reason for the strength and success of the early church. We feel that Park Street Church has been blessed and strengthened by new friendships and that a new understanding of the blessings of membership in the body of believers is growing.

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*Charles Beekley is program director of WVNO-FM in Mansfield, Ohio. If you have specific questions about Park Street's "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" program, you may write Mr. Beekley at 246 Sloan Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.*



Photo by Bruce Ronk



# Making Disciples

by Ronald W. Waters

Read Matthew 28:19; II Timothy 2:1-7.

The Apostle Paul is probably best known for his dramatic conversion, his missionary journeys, and his letters of instruction to the churches he had founded. But we seldom note the vital ministry he performed among young men such as Timothy.

Paul certainly recognized the magnitude of the work of spreading the gospel to all men. At times it appears that he was trying to take on the whole world himself, yet he was zealous for the work of the Lord and was sensitive to the leading of the Spirit.

This sensitivity must have been the directive force in leading him to Timothy. In Acts 16:1-3, we find Paul on his second missionary journey, visiting again the churches he had planted in Asia Minor. At Lystra he became acquainted with "a certain disciple," Timothy, who the writer says was spoken highly of by the believers in that vicinity. Paul was sufficiently impressed with young Timothy and asked that he might assist him in his work. Why?

Scripture does not record Paul's reasons. Possibly it was because of Timothy's godly relatives (II Timothy 1:5); perhaps Paul recognized even then the faith he also mentioned in II Timothy 1:5; or it might have been because of the recommendations of those who knew Timothy best—the believers in his community (Acts 16:2). Quite likely, all of these played a part in Paul's decision. Maybe, too, he saw potential for growth and a willingness to learn.

The writer of Acts records Timothy's presence with Paul during at least portions of his second and third journeys. During this time Timothy would have enjoyed the benefit of Paul's teaching, his dramatic and varied approaches to Christian witness, and his example in the faith.

Likewise, Paul gave Timothy responsibility. He served as Paul's envoy, first to Berea (Acts 17:14), then to Corinth when controversy flared there (I Corinthians 4:17). At the time Paul wrote to Timothy, he was a leader in the church at Ephesus with responsibility for teaching (I Timothy 1:3).

Paul's primary work was that of reaching the lost and nurturing those who came to faith. But he also recognized the need to prepare those who would carry on the ministry after he was gone.

In his second epistle to Timothy, he challenged his associate to do likewise: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, these entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also" (II Timothy 2:2, NASB).

I am constantly encouraged at the number of

young men and women in the Brethren Church who are abundantly talented and who are eager to be of service to Christ. Yet I am afraid that some local church leaders fail to nurture them in their faith and stimulate them to realize their potential for maturity in life and service.

The Brethren Church needs numerous Pauls today who will serve as models for young people, who will commit time to them, and who will trust them with meaningful, challenging responsibilities in their local churches. We need men and women who will enter pastoral service and missions. Likewise we need people "ready, willing, and able" to assume positive leadership positions within local churches, districts, and national organizations. In general, the Brethren Church needs people skilled in communicating the message of salvation and in discipling those won to mature faith and commitment.

That's enough for generalities; now what can you do to make disciples? First, if you feel you need some discipling yourself, talk to your pastor. He will be happy to assist you, and he will probably be able to direct you to books such as Chuck Miller's **Now That I'm a Christian** (Regal) or Gary Kuhne's **The Art of Personal Fellowship** (Zondervan).

As you begin to grow, become better acquainted with several young people in your church. If you are a Sunday school teacher or youth advisor, that should be fairly easy. If you are not in direct contact with the youth, talk to those who are. Be willing to share with the young people your struggles for growth. Get to know their interests, general attitudes, life goals, and levels of spiritual maturity. But in all things, you must be genuinely interested in them.

If a relationship does develop, remember what Paul did to train Timothy. He shared the truths of God's Word (II Timothy 1:13-14). He helped him discover his spiritual gifts (II Timothy 1:6). Paul also demonstrated to Timothy his expertise, namely, proclaiming the gospel and teaching God's Word. What skills can you share? Further, Paul gave Timothy simple guidelines for daily living (note II Timothy 2:4-7—the soldier who is aware of his commitment, the athlete who is obedient to the rules of the game, and the farmer who works hard for a bountiful harvest). And finally, Paul gave Timothy challenging assignments, giving him opportunity to put his learning into practice with the very real possibility that he might fail initially (I Corinthians 4:17).

Are you interested in nurturing others in the faith? Good; begin today. God will bless you and his people will benefit from your efforts.



# church growth forum

## The Church Growth Leader

In his new book, **Your Church Can Grow**, C. Peter Wagner gives five qualities of a church growth leader: 1) single-minded obedience; 2) clearly defined objectives; 3) reliance on discerning research; 4) ruthlessness in evaluating results; and 5) an attitude of optimism and faith. How do you measure up? Church leaders should begin to develop these qualities so they can give real growth leadership to their churches. For a more detailed explanation of each of these characteristics, see pages 30-32 of Mr. Wagner's new book, **Your Church Can Grow**, published by Regal Books and available from the Brethren Bookstore.

### CHURCH GROWTH SEMINAR TWO

God is using Church Growth Seminar One to motivate many Brethren churches in the area of church growth as they discover church growth principles and develop "church growth eyes" to begin to see the possibilities for growth which God has entrusted to them. As these churches seek to construct and implement strategies to reach church growth goals, a need has arisen for further resources and training which will help churches in the "how tos" of church growth. To meet this need a pilot seminar, **Church Growth Seminar Two**, was conducted on February 27-28, 1976, by Dr. Fred Burkey and Rev. Arden E. Gilmer. Participants from several Southeast District churches came together at Hagerstown, Md., for training in "Church Growth Task Force Guidelines" and "How to Develop a Long-Range Growth Plan for the Local Church." Those taking the seminar expressed appreciation for its helpfulness in these areas.

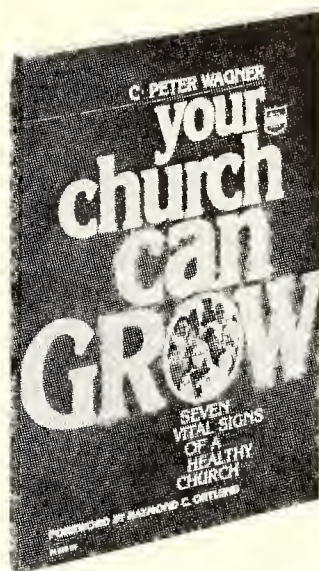
### A CHALLENGE

The Meadow Crest Brethren Church (Ft. Wayne, Ind.) had a strong outreach ministry during the Lenten season. Each family in the church was challenged to bring a new family to regular church attendance by Easter Sunday. At this writing several new families had begun to attend services as a result of the church rising to meet the challenge.

### THE ROLE OF NUMBERS

"The church growth thesis is a simple one: The goal of any program of evangelism is to produce disciples. If disciples, therefore, are being produced, the outward manifestation will be measurable, numerical growth within the Church. Making disciples is defined in terms of numbers of those who accept Christ, show evidence of regeneration, and are incorporated into the Body of Christ" (**What's Gone Wrong With the Harvest**, Engel and Norton, p. 58).

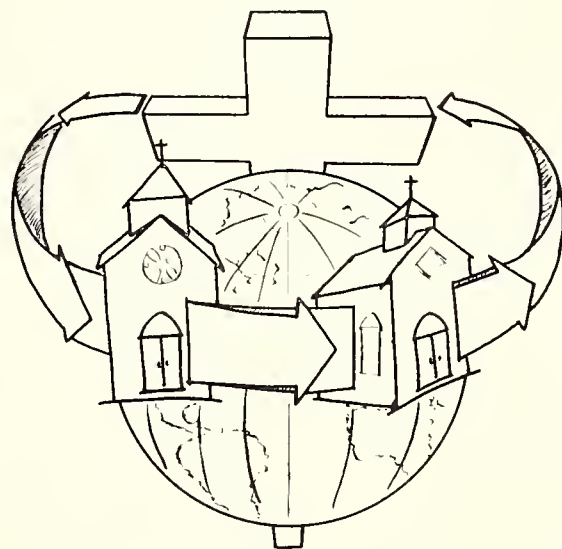
*What growth is happening in your church? Church Growth Forum is designed so that you can share with the denomination the insights you have learned and the strategies you have implemented to reach your goals. Share your experiences by sending them to Arden E. Gilmer, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805.*



*Pete Wagner's new book examines the seven vital signs of a healthy, growing church. Wagner is a major authority in church growth today. This book is excellent for introducing church growth principles, but it also contains new material.*

### CHURCH GROWTH UPDATE

More churches continue to request church growth exposure. A seminar has been planned for the Huntington, Roanoke, and Ft. Wayne, Ind., churches. Rev. Brian Moore is conducting the seminar, hosted by Roanoke, on April 30 and May 1. The churches participating in the Vandergrift, Pa. seminar are in the midst of preparations. They are setting goals for a number of people from their churches to take the seminar, and they are challenging their leaders to be involved. The Pittsburgh, Valley, Brush Valley, and Pleasant View churches will participate in this May 14-15 seminar to be conducted by Arden E. Gilmer. To schedule your church's seminar write to Rev. Gilmer.





# Let Freedom Ring

*The delegates to the 1976 convention of the National Association of Evangelicals accepted the following declaration as their statement to the church and to the world for the Bicentennial year.*

Two hundred years ago our fathers dreamed of a nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal in the image of God and are endowed by their Creator with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

A few years later at the Constitutional Convention Benjamin Franklin, acknowledging the necessity for the nation's dependence on and favor of God, proclaimed the need for prayer, declaring . . . "God governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

A Constitution and Bill of Rights, based upon the framers' commitment to the principles of the Judeo-Christian faith, guaranteed to the citizens of the nation freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the right to free assembly such as we enjoy here today.

We acknowledge, and at the same time deplore, that even to this day not all citizens of our nation enjoy a full measure of the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. All too often these rights have been interpreted to mean the selfish benefit of some rather than the common good of all, without regard to race, sex, or national origin. Freedoms and rights have limitations. Edmund Burke once said, "men are qualified for civil liberties in exact proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their own appetites."

Today America's "noble experiment" is being tested as never before. Those basic moral and ethical principles on which a great nation was built are increasingly being abandoned. Millions of spiritually insensitive Americans have turned freedom into license to do as they please. A nationally shallow conscience, and the lack of spiritual enlightenment cannot serve as moral foundations sufficient for continuing stability of our republic.

*You shall know the truth,  
and the truth shall make  
you free—John 8:32.*





*When a nation ceases  
to be good, it soon  
ceases to be free.*



Examples of decay confront us on every hand. Crimes of violence have skyrocketed 174% within the last decade. Alcoholism, drug addiction, and homosexuality are major social problems. The loss of respect for the sanctity of the marriage covenant and the instability of the home threaten the nation. *One* of every *three* marriages ends in divorce. Waves of political scandals from the White House to the City Hall have engulfed America. Corruption in certain segments of both management and labor has shaken confidence in their integrity. Substantial distortion and slanted news reporting have impaired the credibility of the media until the national mood is one of cynicism and distrust. Judicial practices that turn hardened criminals loose on society on the one hand, while denying the basic right to a fair and speedy trial to others who languish in prison, is a national scandal. The unprecedented increase of programs that feature sex and violence on television is a clear sign of our moral and spiritual decay.

When a nation ceases to be good, it soon ceases to be free.

The government is increasingly becoming the master rather than the servant of the people. Americans rightly fear the rise of new bureaucracies that function beyond the law with no appeal from decisions often made by the bureaucrat. In a computerized society the government improperly obtains private information from data banks that could be used against the individual in violation of his constitutional rights. More and more, self respect and the right of self-determination are surrendered in the name of security. We ask again the question of an early patriot so long ago: "Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God."

Will our nation, which has not been conquered from without, follow at long last the course of other great nations that finally collapsed from the weight of the moral decay within? And if it does, will it perish, as Augustine said of Rome, "for want of order in the soul, and this disorder in the soul is a sickness unto death."

We must hear again the Word of God which declares that righteousness exalts a nation and sin is a reproach to any people. As with men—what nations sow, nations shall also reap. God is not mocked!

In this year of Bicentennial celebration it is imperative that we, the American people, reaffirm those principles on which the United States of America was founded, but also accept and discharge the responsibilities that history imposes upon us. In our pledge of allegiance we have now explicitly stated what our fathers envisioned—"One Nation under God"—and have inscribed on our coins, "In God we trust." But mere lip service to an ideal, however noble, is not enough. Most of the signers of the Declaration of Independence paid dearly for the pledge they made. We call upon men in high places now to show the same boldness, enterprise, and unembarrassed faith and to have courage to do the right as God gives them to see the right.

We, as evangelicals, stand today at a critical point in the history of our nation, when what we do or fail to do will make the difference. As Burke has said, "All that remains for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

American evangelicals have come to the kingdom for such an hour as this!



*American evangelicals have  
come to the kingdom for  
such an hour as this!*



*WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE GOD?*

*We must* hear God's challenge, "If my people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways: Then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).

*We must* act as Christ commanded: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

*We must* proclaim as Christ did, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

*We must* respond as Paul exhorted, that . . . "prayers be made for all men . . . and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (I Timothy 2:2).

WE THEREFORE, acknowledging God's sovereignty over all, and Christ's redeeming grace in our lives, commit ourselves to participate in every lawful and morally right function of human government and oppose with all our determination whatever is unlawful and morally wrong. While we work, we wait for the return of Him whose right it is to reign, whose Kingdom shall abide throughout eternity.



NAE Photo

*General Conference Moderator Spencer Gentle (left) discusses NAE's role in the Bicentennial with Dr. Nathan Bailey, NAE president, and Dr. Billy A. Melvin, executive director.*





## Craig Brown: Surveying the Flood

Is there evidence in the physical sciences to indicate the actual occurrence of the Genesis Flood?

Craig Brown thinks so, and he has spent the last few months researching the subject as the major portion of his seminary thesis.

He has always had an interest in the physical sciences and took several courses in them during his undergraduate study at Ohio State University. But his major at OSU was in math, and his vocational objective was to become a research scientist.

In 1971, however, while working on his masters degree, Craig became discouraged. He was interested in applied math, but all his courses seemed to emphasize theory. So in June of that year he dropped out of graduate school, but not before entering into the Christian faith.

A short time before leaving OSU, he was approached in the student union by two students from Campus Crusade. They shared the "Four Spiritual Laws," and Craig prayed to receive Christ. "No one had ever sat down and explained it to me quite like that before."

Before that time, his life had been quite varied. His father was in the Air Force, and the family moved frequently. When Craig was in high school, his dad retired and they settled in Newark, where the family was reached by the Brethren Church. Craig says, "I attended some, but it was more or less a habit." Interestingly, he had read the Bible through twice before he accepted Christ.

After his conversion, he says, "I really wanted to attend church for the first time in my life, and that included Sunday school and morning and evening worship services."

Having been unsuccessful in finding a teaching position after discontinuing his graduate studies,

Craig began to reconsider his future. After much prayer and the counsel of his pastor, Alvin Grumbling, Craig enrolled in the Ashland Theological Seminary in the fall of 1973. He will graduate with his master of divinity degree this June.

Craig is interested in pastoral ministry. "I think a lot of the needs of people in the church are not being met." He feels generally the greatest needs are in strengthening family relationships, teaching people how best to study the Bible, and helping students set goals for their lives. He believes that worship can become an exciting experience when people's needs are being met.

He also believes that most churches can grow, but they have to overcome negativism to be successful. Another reason some churches might not be growing is because "we are not taking advantage of all the opportunities available to us" for reaching others.

Craig is interested in the idea of an internship or an associate pastoral position following graduation. "A lot of people who graduate from seminary are not ready for service because they haven't had enough practical experience. I think it would be better for future ministers to work some time under a successful pastor, rather than having to learn important lessons about the ministry the hard way."

Craig's plans after graduation are uncertain at this time, though he is pursuing several possibilities for service in the Brethren Church.

And what about the Flood? After completing a thorough study (which is characteristic of Craig) of the Scriptures and scientific literature, he concludes by saying, "I can accept the first 11 chapters of Genesis very literally. The scientific data leans heavily in that direction."

—Ron Waters, Ashland, Ohio

## *contact*

*keeping Brethren in touch*



## Church Properties Board to Purchase Sites

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—On Apr. 2 the Brethren Church Properties Board authorized the signing of a letter of intent to purchase two properties on College Ave. in Ashland. The land is east of and adjacent to the site of the Brethren Publishing Company. The board felt the location would be ideal for a much-needed Brethren Church central offices building.

The two properties are now available for their appraised value of \$23,000 each, a reasonable price for this part of Ashland.

The board plans to finance the purchase through long-term notes available to members and friends of the Brethren Church and to con-

gregations. Notes will be available in multiples of \$1,000 for terms of three to ten years at an annual interest rate of 7½ per cent. Rentals from the properties will contribute significantly toward the cost. Contributions are also welcomed.

The Church Properties Board would rather provide this investment opportunity to Brethren people than to pay a higher interest rate to a lending institution. Interested individuals or churches with investment monies available prior to July 10 are urged to write the board immediately for more details. Contact: Miss Dorothy Carpenter, Central Council Office, 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.

## OHIO CONFERENCE HOLDS WINTER MEETING

**DELAWARE (Ohio)**—The Ohio Conference of Brethren Churches held its first winter business session on Saturday, Mar. 13, and had a significant increase in the number of participants.

Held on the campus of centrally-located Ohio Wesleyan University, the gathering drew 132 delegates, an increase of 67 per cent over the 1975 conference. A special effort had been made to attract local church leaders as delegates.

A major presentation of the day was the report of a self-study committee appointed at the 1975 conference. Following an analysis of district statistics since 1947 and the results of a question-

naire administered to individuals and board members from the district, the committee made a number of proposals. Included were suggestions for further study of: the feasibility of employing a district administrator; better methods for assisting declining or troubled congregations; and the assignment of responsibility for the formulation of long- and short-range objectives for the district to the conference executive committee. The report was followed by small group discussions.

The statistical report for 1975 revealed a 3.1 per cent increase in the church growth index (a composite average of membership, Sunday school attendance, and morning worship attendance) over 1974.

The Board of Christian Education announced the retirement of all indebtedness on Camp Bethany.

The conference also recognized Eldorado as the newest church in the district and received its delegates for the first time.

A spiritual retreat is planned for June 18 and 19 at Camp Bethany. A limited amount of business will be transacted at that time.



Staff Photo

*Delegates to the Ohio business meeting discussed self-study committee's proposals in small groups.*

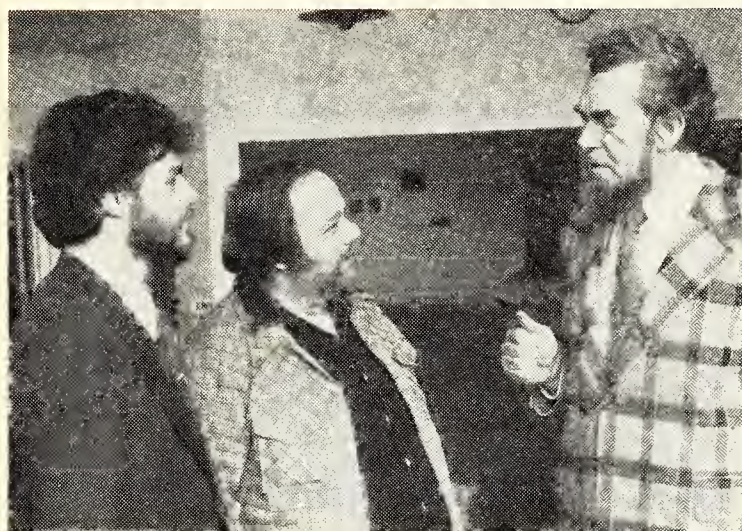
### Other Update Items:

- Bicentennial Conference Briefs (p. 19)
- People and Events (pp. 20-21)
- Letters (p. 22)
- Pastors Briefed at Management Seminar (p. 23)
- World News in Brief (p. 24)



# Bicentennial Conference

## Briefs



Staff Photo

*Charles Munson (right) explains to Jim Fields and Ken Hysell the importance of retaining their beards through General Conference.*

### BEARDS IN VOGUE FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Celebration of the Brethren "Heritage of Hope" has revived an interest in the growing of beards among many Brethren men. Dr. Charles Munson, professor at the Ashland Theological Seminary, has even gone so far as to suggest that Brethren not sporting the facial feature will be subject to the ban during the 1976 General Conference.

At the March meeting of the Ohio District Conference in Delaware, Ohio, nearly 20 of the 142 attenders were found to be well on their way to beards that Dr. Munson termed "acceptable."

A recent poll of the brotherhood revealed some notable holdouts on the subject. They expressed a willingness to defy the edicts of the annual meeting and suffer the consequences. Others expressed an interest in renting beards for the week. Still others expressed a desire to maintain a happy home as a valid reason for failure to comply.

Munson noted, however, that there will be no mercy for those without beards. They are urged to examine their souls and be prepared for an enjoyable week at General Conference.

### REPORT CONTACT PERSON NOW!

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The Publicity Committee of General Conference has requested that each local church submit the name of a contact person to receive publicity for the 1976 conference. The request was made through Moderators' Minutes, a monthly newsletter sent to local church moderators by the Central Council office.

The name and address of the contact should be mailed as soon as possible to the Publicity Committee, in care of The Brethren Church, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805.



### SPECIAL OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED FOR BICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—By action of the 1975 General Conference, a special offering will be taken in all Brethren churches on July 4, 1976. This offering will be used for promotion and program of the 1976 General Conference, to be held in Ashland, Aug. 9 to 13. This Bicentennial Conference will be unique; the July 4th offering will help supply for special needs.

Specially designed inserts and envelopes will be sent to all churches for use on July 4th.

The Wednesday evening offering during the "Heritage of Hope" Conference will also be used for this project.

Checks should be designated for the "Bicentennial Offering," and sent payable to:

The Brethren Church  
524 College Ave.  
Ashland, OH 44805

### GRAND MARCH PLANNED FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—An introductory grand march will open the 1976 General Conference, planned for Aug. 9 to 13 in Ashland. Theme of the conference is the celebration of our Brethren "Heritage of Hope."

The grand march will include a presentation of banners from each church in the brotherhood. The banners will be on display throughout the week.

Each church is responsible for designing and constructing its own banner. It should be made of cloth, no larger than three feet by five feet. The banner should be mounted on a six foot pole, one inch in diameter, along the three-foot side. Also, each church should select a banner bearer to carry the standard in the grand march.

Programs containing highlights of the conference week activities will be available to local churches shortly.





*Rev. Charles Lowmaster*

## LOWMASTER NEW QUARTERLY WRITER

**ASHLAND (Ohio)** — The Brethren Publishing Company announced recently the appointment of Rev. Charles Lowmaster as a new writer for the Brethren Bible Class Quarterly. He replaces Dr. John Locke, who passed away in December.

Rev. Lowmaster will be writing the application portion of the lessons in the Summer 1976 issue. He joins Rev. Henry Bates and Rev. W. St. Clair Benshoff on the writing staff.

A graduate of Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary, Rev. Lowmaster was ordained into the ministry in 1958 in his home church, the Pleasant View Brethren Church in Vandergrift, Pa. His pastorates have included the Gretna (Bellefontaine, Ohio), Johnstown (Pa.) Second, and Elkhart (Ind.) First churches. Presently, he is pastor of the Louisville (Ohio) church.

Rev. Lowmaster has been active in the Brethren Church on the district and national levels, as well. Currently, he is chairman of the Special Ministries Commission of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, and he represents the National Ministerial Association on Central Council.

He is married to the former Roberta Ribblet of Johnstown, Pa. They have two daughters, Becky Jo and April Joy.

The summer quarter study deals with the importance of the Bible in the growth of the Church since the time of Christ.

## Pastoral News

**JIM DONAHOO** completes his ministry at Johnstown (Pa.) Second church on Apr. 30.

**DAVID MANNING, SR.**, from Udell (Iowa) to Falls City (Nebr.)/Morrill (Kans.), June 1.

**ELMER KECK**, from Falls City/Morrill to retirement in Ashland, May 1.

## Weddings

**VERA SHAPINSKI-IRVIN WILSON**, Feb. 14, at Ardmore (Ind.) church, Brian Moore and Don Crabill, officiating.

**BERNEAL COLLINS-REV. ARTHUR TINKEL, SR.**, Apr. 4, at College Corner (Ind.) church, Arthur Tinkel, Jr., Paul Tinkel, and Duane Dickson, officiating.

## In Memory

**TILLIE CONNIN BRANDT**, 88, Apr. 2. Member of the Bryan (Ohio) church since 1912. Memorial services by Marlin McCann, pastor.

**PEARL CONRAD**, 91, March 1. Member of the North Manchester (Ind.) church. Funeral services by Woodrow Immel, pastor.

**ARTHUR H. DELOZIER**, 59, Apr. 10. Longtime member of Ashland (Ohio) First church. Memorial services by Eugene Beekley, pastor.

**SHERMAN GILBERT**, 56, Feb. 29. Lifetime member of the West Alexandria (Ohio) church. Funeral services by Percy Miller. Herbert Gilmer, pastor.

**CHARLES E. KRAMER**, 92, Jan. 18. Member of the Roanoke (Ind.) church. Memorial services by Ralph Gibson, pastor.

**DENVER E. LOCKHART**, 65, March 31. Member of the Bryan (Ohio) church since 1934. Memorial services by Marlin McCann, pastor.

**DR. ISABELLE G. WILCOX**, 78, March 13. Former member of Pittsburgh (Pa.) church and daughter of one of its founders. Memorial service by Norman Long, pastor.

**FRANK YOST**, 97, Feb. 25. Member of the Burlington (Ind.) church. Services by Albert Curtright, pastor.

## Calendar of Events

**MAY 4-6**—Pastors' & Wives' Retreats, Ohio Camp Bethany.

**MAY 16**—Day of Honor for the Allisons, Jefferson Brethren Church, Goshen, Ind.

**MAY 16**—Dedication of church sanctuary, Warsaw (Ind.) Brethren Church.

**JUNE 10-12**—Indiana Conference, Shipshewana.

**JUNE 18-19**—Ohio Conference, Camp Bethany.

**JULY 4**—Day of Worship and Thanksgiving (NAE Emphasis); Bicentennial Offering Sunday; Peace Sunday.

**JULY 16-17**—Central Dist. Conference, Waterloo.

**JULY 22-24**—Pennsylvania Conf., Camp Peniel.

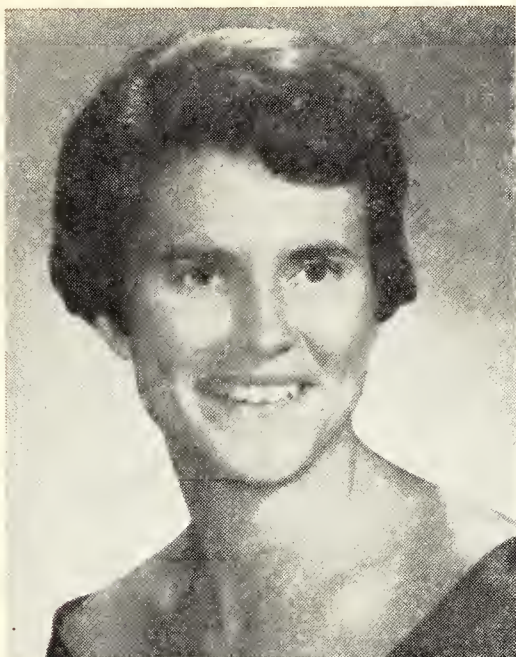
**AUGUST 9-13**—1976 General Conference, Ashland.

## Membership Growth

**North Manchester:** 2 by baptism, 4 by letter

**Mulvane:** 8 by baptism





*Mrs. J. Michael Drushal*

## MRS. DRUSHAL CALLED TO SPECIAL MINISTRY

**NASHVILLE (Tenn.)**—First Presbyterian Church, a growing congregation in this city, recently extended a call to Mrs. J. Michael (Mary Ellen) Drushal to serve as Director of Children's Ministries. She and her family moved to Nashville in mid-April.

Mrs. Drushal will be responsible for all activities of the 750 children enrolled in the church, from cradle roll through sixth grade. She will have major oversight of the Sunday school, children's worship, and Wednesday evening programs as well as being co-principal for the annual vacation Bible school. In addition she will serve as liaison between the church and Oak Hill School, a Christian elementary school which meets in church facilities.

Her husband, Michael, is now employed as a computer systems analyst with Kuhn's Big K, a variety store chain in the South. They reside with their children, Lori and Jeff.

When asked about her new responsibilities, Mrs. Drushal replied that she is "... awed by the responsibility. But it will also be a great challenge and an excellent opportunity to increase my experience in children's ministries."

She has been a member of the Brethren Publishing Company board of directors and, since September, 1974, has been a children's division seminar leader for the International Center for Learning (ICL), sponsored by Gospel Light Publications. The Drushals were active in the Smithville (Ohio) Brethren Church.

## WARSAW TO DEDICATE SANCTUARY

**WARSAW (Ind.)**—The Warsaw church, which recently completed a renovation of their sanctuary, has scheduled a dedication service for Sunday, May 16, at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Joseph R. Shultz, vice president for the seminary at Ashland College, will deliver the message.

## BRYAN ESTABLISHES MEMORIAL FOR MYRON DODDS

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—First Brethren Church of Bryan, Ohio, has established a memorial fund for the Brethren Publishing Company in memory of Rev. Myron Dodds.

Rev. Dodds, who passed away in January, was a former pastor of the Bryan church and had served as president of the board of directors of the publishing company for several years.

Contributions may be sent to the Bryan church or directly to the Brethren Publishing Company and should be designated "in memory of Myron Dodds."

## SARASOTA HONORS GOLDENAIRE COUPLES

**SARASOTA (Fla.)**—On Feb. 29th, First Brethren Church honored couples who had been married 50 years or more. A total of 23 couples in attendance were recognized.

Mr. and Mrs. Arcie Engleman and Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Kershner held the record for longest marriages, each couple having been wed for over 62 years.

At least six couples who had passed their golden anniversaries were unable to attend, including Mr. and Mrs. Billy Botkin, married for 73 years.

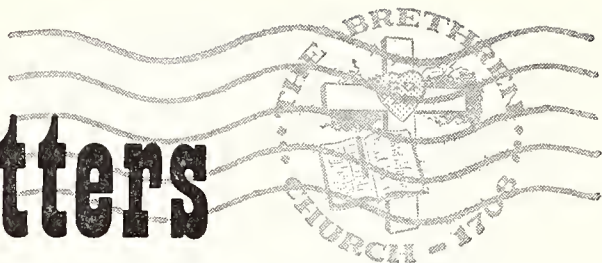


Staff Photo

*Miss Joan McKinney (right) has been a part-time clerk in the Brethren Bookstore since last fall but will be terminating her employment soon to spend her summer as an intern with the Manteca (Calif.) church. Joan is a sophomore business and religion major at Ashland College. Above, she assists Mrs. Jerry Flora with a purchase.*



## Letters



Dear Editor,

I want to congratulate you on your new format of the Brethren Evangelist. You have touched all bases for the denomination. This has been one of the most compact and enlightening publications that we have had in many years.

—J. D. Hamel, Sarasota, Fla.

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed a check to renew our subscription to the Brethren Evangelist. Enjoy every copy, so don't want to miss an issue.

—James W. Rieger, Falls City, Nebr.

Dear Editor,

Praise the Lord! Your new feature—the Bible study—is most welcome! Thank you. Are you going to have different authors from time to time?

—Jane Hendricks, Sarasota, Fla.

Ed. note—Yes, we hope to have a different writer each month. If readers would be interested in preparing a Bible study, they should write us about the Scripture passage and topic before submitting the study itself.

*Letters to the editor are welcome. All letters should pertain to the content or format of the magazine and be limited to 250 words in length. Writers should also include their name and address. Letters will be published as space allows. We value your comments.*

### JEFFERSON TO HONOR ALLISONS

**GOSHEN (Ind.)**—The Jefferson Brethren Church is planning a "Day of Honor," May 16, for Dr. and Mrs. Richard Allison. Dr. Allison has accepted a full-time teaching position at the Ashland Theological Seminary, effective May 31.

The day will include a coffee and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. at the church, a carry-in dinner at noon at the Jefferson Elementary school, and a "roast." Presenting the morning message will be Dr. Charles Munson.

Dr. Allison has served the Jefferson and Goshen churches during the past 13 years.

### Coming in the next issue of the Brethren Evangelist

- Some reflections on peace and summaries of chapters in the 1976 study book for Peace Sunday
- Observations on seminarians and hamburgers
- Information on ministerial student aid in the Brethren Church

### NEW ADDRESSING SYSTEM SPEEDS PROCESSING

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The March issue of the Brethren Evangelist marked the inauguration of a new addressing system at the Brethren Publishing Company. The system will be used to consolidate address lists of the denominational boards and to centralize mailing.

The Addressograph equipment utilizes metal plates and can be programmed to select various mailing lists from a master file of addresses. The system has cut addressing time for the Evangelist to less than half that required on the previous system.

In relation to the transition from the old system to the new, we recently received the following letter:

Dear Whom It May Concern,

Oris and Viola Collins were married 51 years ago in the house that was built by her grandfather. Viola's father was born in that house, worked the farm, and lived there all his life. Viola was born there and, after her marriage to Oris, they began housekeeping in the same house. Oris worked the farm, and they have been there all this time. The house has never moved; it has always been at this address:

Route 4, Box 233

Someone recently decided that a more correct address is this one:

County Rd. 200 W

Oris claims that his last Evangelist reached him by the grace of God. Please, since the house hasn't moved, send Oris and Viola's Evangelist to its ancient address. They have made a habit of reading every word of the magazine, and they have no desire to change that habit.

Signed: Wes Ellis, pastor

We are sorry for the inconvenience to Mr. and Mrs. Collins and to their pastor. We are grateful that they informed us of our error and we hope you will do likewise if we have accidentally changed your address. (Ed. note—Your letter doesn't have to be as creative as that of Pastor Ellis, though his made a particular Friday more enjoyable.)

### CARPENTER'S SHOP TO CARRY HALLMARK CARDS

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Brethren Bookstore manager Dan DeVeney has announced that the Carpenter's Shop will carry the Hallmark line of greeting cards. Approval of a long-term agreement with Hallmark was reached recently.

The Carpenter's Shop, the new home in Ashland for the bookstore, becomes the third establishment in the city to carry the line.

Included in the store will be everyday, seasonal, and promotional greeting cards; Crown edition books; albums; and stationery.

Addition of the Hallmark products is in keeping with company policy to provide the highest quality of merchandise to customers.





Photos by Bruce Ronk

*Olan Hendrix (left), management consultant, led the two-day seminar for Brethren pastors. At right are several participants.*

## Pastors Briefed at Management Seminar

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—A total of 68 pastors, students, and denominational executives participated in a Management for Growth seminar, March 22 and 23. Included in that number were 47 pastors and associates and 10 future pastors.

Site of the seminar was the spacious Ashland County-West Holmes Joint Vocation School near here. The school offered an excellent lecture hall and dining facilities as well as the privacy necessary for the intensive training.

The two-day gathering provided information on leadership and management skills designed specifically for pastors, ministers of Christian education, and denominational leaders.

Specifically, the study assisted individuals in identifying ways to plan their work, set objectives, organize for results, delegate responsibility, and describe the task to be done.

The seminar leader was Olan Hendrix, a management consultant for Christian organizations. Hendrix has taught management principles to over 6,000 Christian leaders in 28 countries of the world. Previously, he had been a pastor and director of two mission organizations.

The seminar was sponsored by the Brethren Church denominational executives with the support of the Missionary Board, which utilized the sessions as the basis for its annual home mission pastors' conference.

In addition to management training, participants received an update on the ministry of each of the denominational boards.

Hendrix stressed application of each principle to local situations. He encouraged all to ask questions and to interact with one another or himself during breaks.

Though participants did not become experts in the field, they did receive a basic introduction

and an inch-thick study guide for future reference. Leaders of churches whose pastor attended the seminar are encouraged to discuss with him the insights he gained for making their church organizations more efficient and effective.

## BEFORE YOU MOVE

... please let us know.

### 1. Give old address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Fill in new address below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date new address in effect \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Mail this form to:

Address Correction  
Brethren Publishing Company  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, OH 44805



## World News in Brief

### AGENCIES SPREAD THE WORD: CHILD SERVICE ACT DOES NOT THREATEN FAMILY

**WASHINGTON (EP News)**—An avalanche of mail is still flowing into the capital from alarmed citizens over S. 626 and H.R. 2966, even though many groups, including church agencies, have been stressing that the Child and Family Services Act is not a threat to the family as opponents have reported.

As many as 7,000 letters a day are flowing into the offices of the authors of the bill. The legislation is designed to help both children and parents, particularly those parents who are working or cannot, for a variety of reasons, care for their children during working hours. It provides full-time or part-time child care.

One falsehood being circulated about the bill, introduced by Senator Walter Mondale (D-Minn.) and Representative John Brademas (D-Ind.), is that it will substitute government for parents in the rearing of children.

"I am pleading for an honest dialogue," Senator Mondale said at a meeting with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "Those peddling these falsehoods should be confronted with the truth."

### BOOK WRITTEN FOR CHRISTIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

**WHEATON (NAE)**—A new publication by the Christian Legal Society outlines the rights and opportunities for Christian teachers in public schools. Some of the chapter headings are: "What can a teacher do or permit in the classroom itself?," "What can a Christian teacher do in the context of his or her profession, but outside of the classroom, that can be of eternal value?," and "The legal immunities and remedies of a Christian teacher." This book, entitled **The Christian Teacher and the Law**, is available from the Christian Legal Society, P.O. Box 2069, Oak Park, Illinois, 60303 for \$2.50.

### ELDRIDGE CLEAVER COMMITTED TO CHRIST

**OAKLAND, Calif. (EP News)**—In an Oakland Court House jail here, former Information Minister and co-founder of the militant Black Panther movement Eldridge Cleaver received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Chaplain Glenn L. Morrison, of Follow Up Ministries in California, said Cleaver asked for a personal interview after being encouraged by a cell mate (and former enemy during nine years at San Quentin) to read the Bible daily.

### MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE SETS OLYMPIC GAMES PROJECT

**CHICAGO (EP News)**—A team of 50 students from the Moody Bible Institute here will participate in a 13-day evangelism project, July 17-August 1, at the 1976 Montreal Summer Olympic Games.

### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TO BE OBSERVED MAY 14

**WASHINGTON (EP News)** — President Ford, noting the "profound faith in God which inspired the founding fathers," has designated May 14 of this Bicentennial year as National Day of Prayer, 1976.

The President said that, in conformity with a Congressional request, "it is especially appropriate this year that a day be set aside to reaffirm the commitment of our first citizens and draw on the 'solemn sense of God's superintending Providence' that sustained them during those troubled times."

"Now, therefore, I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 14, 1976, as National Day of Prayer, 1976.

"I call upon all Americans to pray that day, each in his or her own way, for the strength to meet the challenges of the future with the same courage and dedication Americans showed the world two centuries ago."

### CONSERVATIVES SUE TO BAN TM TEACHING IN SCHOOLS

**NEWARK (EP News)**—Members of civil rights and religious groups have filed suit at federal courthouse here asking officials to halt the teaching of transcendental meditation in New Jersey's public schools.

Transcendental meditation, along with the Science of Creative Intelligence, are being offered in pilot programs of four New Jersey high schools located in and around Newark. The programs were approved by the State Department of Education and the local school boards. A federal grant funded the initial programs, which were established under the guidance of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a leader of Eastern mystical teachings.

The programs are religious in nature, says the lawyer for the coalition, and therefore are in violation of the U.S. Constitution's provisions for the separation of church and state.

### CRUSADE IN CAIRO POSSIBLE, BILLY GRAHAM REPORTS

**SEATTLE (EP News)**—Evangelist Billy Graham said here that he expects to preach in Cairo next year if an adequate site can be arranged.

Mr. Graham told newsmen that the Egyptian government has approved such a crusade with the restriction that it be held on "neutral" ground. The Coptic Cathedral in Cairo is a possible site, he said.

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A teacher had just given her primary grade class a science lesson on magnets. In the followup test, one question read: "My name starts with 'M'; has six letters and I pick up things. What am I?"

Half the class answered with the word "Mother."



# world relief

*Reflections from my recent tour*

## Meet SEVA

*by Phil Lersch*

SEVA is the name of the organization in Calcutta, India, that is the counterpart agency of WRC. All the board members are Indian citizens. Ron Shaw, president, is a high school principal (trained in the United States) and an Assembly of God minister. Arun Sircar, secretary, is an attorney (a Mennonite layman) whose practice is centered in the justice department. The treasurer is a printer. We also met the owner of the "Kwality" Ice Cream Company and a restaurateur who are involved. These busy men have joined together to work for relief efforts in India.

SEVA stands for Social Economic Vocational Assistance. All World Relief Commission funds for India are channeled through SEVA, for these men know the local needs and are present to assure the best use of every investment.



*Above, SEVA's Secretary Arun Sircar (left) and President Ron Shaw (center) talk with two WRC representatives. Below, WRC and SEVA representatives pray together after meeting together in Calcutta.*

Photos by Phil Lersch



In addition to visiting projects where assistance is given, we met with these SEVA board members one evening around the dinner table and learned of the difficult decisions with which they wrestle:

With the needs so great, where should we help the most?

How can the giving of our aid help in the long run to alleviate the causes?

Which requests are the most deserving?

How can we as evangelicals witness with our aid and still not jeopardize our legal standing as a social agency?

How should we be an arm of the evangelical church, but not become another church?

These questions are not easily answered when beginning a new work.

Mr. Sircar told of a trip one member made to another city to evaluate the request for aid coming from a group there. That group was advised to get legal requirements in order (such as a name, bank account, organization, and so forth) before long-term aid could be considered. Mr. Shaw added that they have been slow sometimes to give aid but only because of their consciousness that they are stewards of the funds given and that they want them used properly. Thankfully, they reported that they have made no big blunders in their brief history.

But SEVA can also act quickly. When there was a flood disaster in central India, they bought 10,000 used blankets and helped these people flooded out of their homes.

(Next Month—Kiosk on the Corner, and other projects.)



While in Washington, D.C., this year,  
visit

WASHINGTON BRETHREN CHURCH  
Corner of Branch & Q Street, S.E.

Sunday services:  
10, 11, and 7:15

Wednesday evening:  
7:30

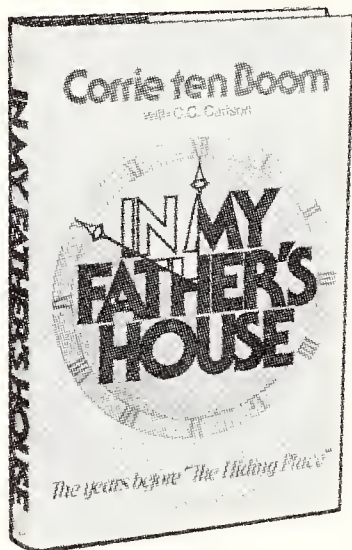
For further information or assistance, write:

Pastor Bob Keplinger  
Washington Brethren Church  
3140 Q Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020



# book reviews

## Before the Hiding Place



### Understanding Emotions

**The Christian Use of Emotional Power** by H. Norman Wright (Fleming H. Revell Co., 1974, 156 pp., \$4.95).

Some time ago I reviewed the book **Communication: Key to Your Marriage**. Now Norman Wright has written another book, entitled **The Christian Use of Emotional Power**. This book helps us understand the Bible from an emotional, psychological point of view. We see ourselves through the characters of the Bible.

The last chapter of the book encourages us to consider self-image. "How do you feel about yourself? When you look at yourself in a mirror, do you have a good feeling about the person you see? Are you satisfied with who and what you are? Do you like yourself?"

The end of this book encourages the beginning of practice in understanding and improving ourselves. "Begin right now to focus on your strengths and positive qualities. Take a piece of paper and list each one of them. If you cannot think of very many, ask some close friends to help you. Do not mention any negative traits, assumed or real. This is a time to look at the positive qualities that make up your life. Why has God allowed you to have the strengths that you have? In what way can you use these strengths for His service? How can you use these strengths to rebuild some of the weak areas of your life?"

There are Bible verses to head each chapter as well as scriptural quotations throughout the book. Therefore, this would be helpful for small Bible study and discussion groups as well as for pastors in the area of counseling.

—Julie Flora, Ashland, Ohio

**In My Father's House** by Corrie ten Boom with C. C. Carlson (Revell, 1976, 192 pp., cloth bound, \$6.95).

Corrie ten Boom is probably best known for the period in her life during World War II when she worked at hiding Jews. Many have read her book **The Hiding Place** or have seen the Billy Graham film based on the book. Corrie has become a world traveler, holding meetings in many lands and telling of her experiences. It was during such a visit to Argentina that it was my privilege to meet her and work with her for a brief period. She has told us about her travels in the book **Tramp for the Lord**.

Many have wondered just what went into her childhood training to prepare her for these experiences. Now we can have many of the details of her early years in this, the latest of her books.

**In My Father's House** shares many of these happenings as she points out how these various experiences provided memories to help her in future events in her life. We meet many of the members of the girls' clubs she directed and in the last chapter find out what some of these girls are doing today. Many pictures have been rescued from family albums to allow us to even see people from these years.

This is not only an enjoyable book about an exciting person but also an inspirational account of how the Lord directed and prepared a young girl for a worldwide ministry.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

### Living the Adventure

**Living the Adventure** by Keith Miller and Bruce Larson (Word Books, 1975, 251 pp., paperback, \$3.95).

I don't know if you are a Keith Miller and/or Bruce Larson fan. I have to admit I have never gotten very excited about these two rather prolific authors. Thus I approached this book with a somewhat negative attitude and saw it as a low priority on my time. However, the more I got into it the more often I found myself picking it up for another chapter.

The book is arranged with twelve chapters discussing various "difficulties" in the Christian life, such as loneliness and rejection, neighbor-loving, communicating the faith, power, Christian sexuality, Christian community, Christian success, and so forth.

Also available are three cassettes, a study guide, and a leaders manual to use with the book to make it a thirteen-week course for groups or classes.

I found the book very helpful and it spurred some new thinking in a number of areas.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio



## Freedom

**Christian Freedom for Women and Other Human Beings** by H. Hollis, V. Mace, David Mace, and S. Anders (Broadman Press, 1975, 192 pp., \$4.95).

Last August at a conference sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, two women and two men presented what we find in this book. This gathering of Christian people demonstrated their commitment to working within the church to bring about justice for women and true "koinonia" between women and men.

Dr. David Mace, a native of Scotland and one of the authors, has written 23 books, several co-authored by Mrs. Mace. He is a professor of family sociology at Wake Forest University.

Mrs. Vera Mace is from England and has an M.A. from Drew University.

Dr. Sarah Frances Anders is chairman of the Department of Sociology at Louisiana College. She has studied at many universities, received many honors, and written extensively in her field.

A native of Tennessee, Dr. Harry N. Hollis, Jr., is director of Family and Special Moral Concerns in the Christian Life Commission of the S.B.C. He received his graduate degrees (B.D. and Th. D.) from Southern Baptist Seminary.

"Women's lib: no! Adam's rib: yes!" This quote is an over-simplification of the human struggle men and women face today. The book includes many significant facts and penetrating insights. It presents a Christian response to some human problems faced by females and males in our society. The focus of this book is on human freedom through Jesus Christ, the true liberator.

—Julie Flora, Ashland, Ohio

## Jeremiah

**Words of Fire; Rivers of Tears** by David M. Howard (Tyndale, 1976, paperback, \$2.95).

This book is about Jeremiah. It is not a commentary on the Biblical book, but on the man himself. And it is not a historical study of the life of the Old Testament prophet but is, rather, "a mirror into which I, the reader, look and as a result come to understand myself better," as Peter Wagner so aptly stated in the forward.

I picked up **Words of Fire; Rivers of Tears** principally because of its author. Dave Howard is a former missionary to Colombia and is presently missions director of Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. He has written a number of books, all of which I have enjoyed. His style lends itself to easy reading, and he frequently sprinkles his thoughts with illustrations from his experience as a missionary or from his work with students.

The contents are divided into four parts: the call of Jeremiah, the ministry of Jeremiah, the hope of Jeremiah, and Christ and Jeremiah.

This is a book with practical insights for us all from the life of one of the great Old Testament prophets.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

## Elsbeth

**Elsbeth** by Harold Myra (Revell, 1975, \$5.95).

Elsbeth was a beautiful missionary nurse from Switzerland who worked in a remote Nigerian hospital. She was admired by an American doctor from the beginning, and they were married. Then illness came.

Myra's book is the account of how a valiant woman faced death and the faith that carried a young couple's love to the limits beyond.

—Marjorie Sechrist, Nappanee, Ind.



## Select Books

**Blessed Are Those Who Mourn** by John Calvin Reid; **The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached** by Robert Schuller; and **The Gift Within You** by Ray Stedman (Regal Books, 1976, each 50 pp. or less, paperback, \$.95).

Gospel Light Publications, through its Regal Books line, has introduced a new series which they call "Select Books." These books are the first in the series. Each is pocket-sized, so designed to be easily carried in pocket or purse or to be given as a special gift.

**The Gift Within You** is excerpted from Stedman's book, **Body Life**, and might be used as a "teaser" to entice someone to read the complete book.

**The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached** is a paraphrase of the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew 5-7. The booklet could be very helpful as a gift to a new Christian coupled with the comment that the contents are guidelines to Christian growth and come from the Bible.

**Blessed are Those Who Mourn** sounds like it might be a paraphrase of the Beatitudes but rather it is based on II Samuel 12:19-23. The author's comments and some selected poetry provide a very helpful booklet. The last page lists Bible references for comfort in sorrow. In my opinion this one is the best of the three.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

(more reviews on page 31)





# Extension Growth in Argentina

by Juan Carlos Miranda

During our October 1974 Assembly Meeting, the pastors and lay leaders of the Brethren Church in Argentina were challenged with a Church Growth Extension Plan. This challenge included a faith promise gathering for the first time in the Argentine church history. And to the surprise of many, it was a very abundant one which was fulfilled during the year 1975.

The plan called for new Brethren churches in three towns. The first one of them is Canada de Gomez, fifty miles west of Rosario. It is a town of 30,000 with two other evangelical churches that are either dying or stagnant. Pastor Vena (and his family) was our choice to be the experienced pastor to start our work there. For 11 months he continued to live in his previous parsonage, traveling to Canada de Gomez twice a week and staying there some nights. He knocked on doors, made contacts, and later began a Bible study in one of the homes.

Students and teachers of the Eden Bible School went to Canada de Gomez several times, holding street services, meetings with the children, and doing personal evangelism, but the doors remained closed. We could not find a place for Pastor Vena to rent, and the people were not very receptive. But finally God's time came. In the following report Pastor Juan Arregin, the coordinator for the

Evangelistic Mobile Unit, writes how with his wife, Pastor Vena and his family, and most of the students of the Eden Bible Institute, great effort was given recently with good results.

## Pastor Arregin's report

"Last November 19, 1975, we started an evangelistic campaign in the city of Canada de Gomez with our tent. Our slogan was 'Evangelistic Crusade.' We started with very few in numbers since we did not have other believers to help and support us. The same was true with the children, especially since the children had to go to school until about the middle of December and were involved in other activities with their families, especially as Christmas was coming. All of this worried us, but God was working in the hearts of children, young people, and adults, and He gave us the privilege and joy of seeing their souls surrendered to Christ as they accepted Him as their personal Savior.

"Canada de Gomez is a beautiful city with many industries. There is work for everybody—even children work. The people were kind and friendly, but they did not come in large crowds to the services; sin has possession of their lives as is true of most people in this world. Alcohol destroys many homes in this city, and there is much witchcraft—tools that the devil is using to enslave the people of Canada de Gomez. These are good reasons why we should remember Pastor Vena, his family, and all the new brethren in our prayers, so that the Lord will strengthen their lives and use them so that others will come to know Christ as their Savior and Lord, and we will give Him the honor and glory.

"As the Lord allowed us to have the joy of seeing souls being saved, we had problems and discouragements that helped us to become closer to the Lord. We had weather problems—pouring rains, high velocity winds—that twice made us take the tent down, tearing the canvas and breaking some of the structural pipes. There was very hot weather and even cold nights. However, in the midst of everything we could see the hand of the Lord working in the hearts; the new converts witnessed to their relatives, friends, and neighbors so that they would come to the tent, which we called the 'Tarpaulin Temple.' After the services they told about the joy in their lives and hearts and openly asked those in attendance why they had not made a decision for Christ as their Savior.

"The Lord also worked a miracle in the life of a 12-year-old boy on Dec. 12. That was one of the



Pastor Oscar Vena and family.



“We were not alone any more, for now we had the company of brethren and a new church was on its way.”

stormy days, one of those days that we had to take the tent down. He had a bad accident as he fell from a horse. They let us know immediately, since Pastor Vena knew the family. Leaving other activities and covered with dirt, Pastor Vena went to the hospital and prayed for the child. Later that night we prayed again for him during the service, since the doctors and the X-ray diagnosed a bad concussion and he was unconscious. He was taken to Rosario immediately for surgery. But God had already been working since the new X-rays taken in Rosario did not show any difficulties; the child was perfectly recovered, and next morning they released him. Praise God's name! The following Sunday he accepted the Lord as his Savior.

“What a joy to see people that previously were enslaved to alcohol not drinking any more; the joy of the children as they brought their parents so that they may know Christ; and some families almost completely belonging now to God. Young people, with a contagious happiness in their activities because they now know the Lord, will testify with words and actions that they have a new life. All of that was forming a familiar atmosphere that was uniting our lives, and together we kept working for the crusade. We were not alone any more, for now we had the company of brethren and a new church was on its way.

“To close the crusade, and being so close to Christmas, we prepared a Christmas pageant for Dec. 22 where all the children and young people worked to demonstrate what happened at Bethlehem almost 2,000 years ago. They showed such an enthusiasm and happiness to tell that Christ came to the world to save sinners. Our joy was in seeing five persons accept the Lord that night.

“There are so many things that happened that we cannot possibly tell everything now. God worked in sinners' hearts, and we did not have any problem that was not solved by people who sympathized with the crusade. The authorities of the city were at our disposal to help. One day they even closed the street to the traffic so that we might have a street service right after the local band had played. City hall supplied the elements, even a school building, and the neighbors there also helped. Time and space are not sufficient to tell you all the wonderful things that the Lord did in Canada de Gomez and how He was able to use our humble lives and talents and the factors that He had given us so that many in that city could come to the knowledge of Christ as their personal Savior. We shall give Him the honor and the glory now and forever.”



*Above is the tent and mobile unit used in campaigns in Argentina.*

### Latest information

Out of almost 120 decisions during the Evangelistic Crusade at Canada de Gomez, 40 were reported to be ready for baptism in January. The first meeting after the crusade ended was held at Pastor Vena's new home, with the attendance being more than 60 persons.

### Statistical report

Children's meetings	27
Average attendance	15
Decisions	15
Evening meetings	32
Average attendance	44
Decisions	93
Christmas pageant	1
Decisions	5
Street services	2



*Gladys Escobar teaches the children at Canada de Gomez.*



# Bradenton -- Growing

by Arden E. Gilmer

Both a building and a church are being constructed by the Brethren in Bradenton, Florida. The building, a physical facility in the final stages of construction, served as the site for a recent church growth seminar. The church, the people anxiously waiting to occupy the building as their place of worship, also experienced the anticipation of seeing their fellowship grow even larger through application of church growth principles.

The Bradenton church, a daughter of the Sarasota Brethren Church, was planted three years ago in Manatee County. The multitude of people moving into this area makes it one of the fastest growing communities in the United States. Realization that our country will be evangelized only by starting new churches in areas of growing population led to the establishment of this work. Through the past three years the church has shown steady growth in attendance.

During this time, the men of the church have risen early every Sunday morning to clean the community center where they have been meeting, changing it from a party room into a worship area. With the move to their new building, this will no longer be necessary. Dedication of the facility was scheduled for Easter Sunday.

The first "official" function held in the new building was a church growth seminar in mid-March which I had the privilege to conduct. At the time of the seminar, the dry wall had been put up, but much of the finishing work on the building was still to be completed.

But Pastor Russ Gordon and his people met together, using a string of temporary lights for illumination, and planned a journey into the land of church growth. It was thrilling to share church growth and discipleship principles in the environment where resulting growth would take place.

As a craftsman was fashioning the cross for the front of the building, the people fashioned

faith goals and began to discuss strategies for reaching people for Christ and building His church with "living" stones (I Peter 2:5). In prayerful anticipation and with a willingness to pay the price for growth, they set one-year and five-year growth goals for membership, attendance, and new converts. Another of their growth goals is to themselves plant a new church in the next five years.

The people of the Bradenton church are eager to see their church grow. God used the church growth seminar to enlarge a developing growth consciousness among them. The seminar closed with a spirit of expectation and urgency as they realized that God would continue to build the church to the extent that they were willing to commit themselves to the task ahead.

A growing building with a growing church—together, these signs point the way to a fruitful ministry in Bradenton, Florida.

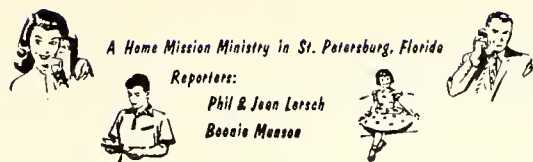


*At left, the new Bradenton Brethren Church. Above, church members prepare graphs during recent church growth seminar.*





# BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT



## New Facilities

After many hours of analysis, prayer, and discussion (by us and the Missionary Board), the board voted to expand our facilities for ministry by purchasing the home next to Brethren House to be used as living quarters for Bonnie and as a place for two of our offices. This gives us three houses in a row at the end of one block with which to work.

This is a major step forward for us and will provide us with the needed room in Brethren House for our workshops and neighborhood activities. And we are long overdue in providing an adequate place for Bonnie to live, as she has had only one room in Brethren House to call her own for nearly five years. In addition to the two offices, the additional house provides Bonnie with a living room, kitchen, utility room, bedroom/bath, patio, and more storage.

So, we are thankful to the Missionary Board and overjoyed at this move. Stop by on your next trip south for a visit with us and an opportunity to see our improved facilities.

—Phil Lersch

## History of Brethren Youth Ministry (continued from page 7)

a national Youth Board as a cooperating board of the church.

The new board, with Rev. Virgil Meyer as its president, was given few guidelines, little power, and no financial support. But after a difficult first year, finances were supplied and a full-time director, Charles Munson, was hired.

In the years that he served in this capacity, Munson sparked the action that helped the organization begin to thrive. A magazine was started, local groups began to grow, summer youth teams were formed to serve in various churches, and the annual youth conference became a yearly highlight for Brethren young people.

Following Munson as director of the Youth Board were Clarence Stogsdill (1953), Phil Lersch (1956), and Marlin McCann (1959). Beverly Summy also served as acting director for several years. Brethren Youth continued to grow.

In 1966 the Youth Board merged with the Sunday School Board to form the Board of Christian Education. In 1967, Fred Burkey was appointed director of the board and he serves in that capacity today. During this period, a new constitution and by-laws of National Brethren Youth have been written and accepted, an extensive Summer Crusader program has been developed, and a National BYC Council has been formed for increased organizational strength and communication.

The history of youth ministry in the Brethren

## More Book Reviews

(continued from page 27)

### POW Testimony

**Before Honor** by Eugene B. McDaniel with James L. Johnson (A. J. Holman Company, 1975, 192 pp., \$6.95)

Another POW (prisoner of war) Naval Commander (now Captain) Eugene "Red" McDaniel tells of his horrible experience, including much torture at a Communist prison in Vietnam.

After being shot down over North Vietnam he was imprisoned for six years. At one point of extreme torture when facing death he gave up the fight and let God control the situation. After this he said, "I felt God's presence in my prison cell. He gave me the strength and courage to survive." His suffering deepened and strengthened his faith, and he became an inspiration to his fellow prisoners. He even could say he felt no bitterness toward his captors: ". . . before honor is humility" (Proverbs 18:12).

James L. Johnson, who helped write his story and who is the author of many books (including the **Code Name Sebastian** series), said: "As America approaches its bicentennial celebration, I am particularly gratified and privileged to share in telling his story, which personifies that great American and Christian spirit that I pray will never die."

This book is very moving and will have a profound effect on Christians.

—Julie Flora, Ashland, Ohio

### For Women Only

**For Women Only** edited by Evelyn R. Petersen and J. Allan Petersen (Tyndale House, 1974, 296 pp.).

How is a woman to find personal fulfillment and yet keep right values? We hear so many conflicting voices and become confused. In this one book, 60 authors share their thoughts, beliefs, and experiences. But each of us must think through all this maze of confusion to find our own answers. Bringing together every phase of a woman's life, some of the topics are: the woman and herself, her world, her children, and her God. This book can help us find the balance we need between the spiritual and the secular.

Some of the writers are: Eugenia Price, Gladys Hunt, Arlene Francis, Ruth Peale, Carlyle Marney, Ruth Graham, Catherine Marshall, David Augsburger, and Rosalind Rinker.

Mr. Petersen is the founder and president of Family Concern, Inc., of Omaha, Nebr.

—Julie Flora, Ashland, Ohio

Church has shown that innovation is important, leaders with vision are essential, and continuous effort is needed to keep youth ministry vital and growing.

In 1893, Brethren Evangelist Editor S. J. Harrison wrote, "Where the young people are today is where the church will be tomorrow." An effective ministry to youth must be a high priority for a growing Brethren Church.



## **The Winter of Our Discontent**

*by Dr. Rudolph M. Rosenthal*

I am a senior citizen. This is the 41st year of service in my congregation. The problem of aging is therefore significant and personal.

James Michener is a very perceptive critic of our times. He has said that the matter of aging is more important than the energy crisis or the ecological problem. Every day there are some 4,000 people who join the 65 club. At the age of 65, statistics maintain that we oldsters should have at least eight of our original teeth. We are eligible for the age of triple B's—bulges, bridges, and bifocals.

A recent news item points up the discovery of a new serum, one that will bring us all to the age of 200. George Bernard Shaw satirically pointed out in his *Meta-Biological Pentateuch*, "People talk about living hundreds of years, but the same individuals don't know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon." All of us, in the words of Benjamin Franklin, "want to live long, but nobody wants to get old."

The United States is a country pre-eminently youth-oriented. There was a time when children were taught to look up to their parents and grandparents. The book of Job proclaims, "With the ancient is wisdom and length of days." In regard to the old, a phrase out of Shakespeare's *Othello* is particularly poignant, even tragic. "Othello's occupation is gone" (Act 3, Scene III, 347).

In cultures other than American, experience and wisdom were the compensations for the erosion of age; but in America the words of the poetess ring sardonically, "I am but the summer season, not the full four seasons of the year. The season of age, in our land, is not the summer season, really, but the winter of our discontent."

Yes, this country possesses a youth cult. The American Revolution was the achievement of young men, with the exception of Benjamin Franklin. The rest of the Founding Fathers were young men.

It was Goethe who proclaimed, "Fortunate is America that has no history." For the most part, it is a saga singularly free from tragedy. But into this America, youthful and relatively untouched

by major tragedies, came a new period—the chastening maturity of great sorrow. Assassination reared its ugly head. We came, with the Kennedy deaths and the Martin Luther King murder, to understand that the joyous, youthful spirit was over. "Heaven lies about us in our infancy, but the prison house begins to close around the growing boy."

Isaiah said, "We all fade as the leaf." "Yea, the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of the Lord stands forever." It is only that part of us that is rooted in God that is eternal. Our America, in which the emphasis was upon youth rather than age, has entered a new and realistic era.

In a new subdued mood, we echoed the monitions of the Psalmist, "Teach us to number our days that we might get us a heart of wisdom." The words of the poet came to mind, "As a candle in a holy place, so is the beauty of an aged face." Previously, America had no place for wrinkles. Before, there had been no consideration for age; now suddenly, Americans were to discover that age, maturity, challenge and sorrow—these are the inevitable aspects of life.

It is interesting that Robert Browning should have plumbed the basic philosophy of the Jewish people. The answer to so many centuries of Jewish adversity was optimism and hope. The English poet places these words of hope into the mouth of Rabbi Ben-Ezra, "Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be, the last for which the first was made."

What civilizations have lasted the longest? The Chinese and the Jewish cultures. These have been the civilizations in which respect for the aged were manifested.

The real criterion of a civilization is what it admires, and the real priority is what it loves. Sure, it is easy to love children—despite Freud's description of them as "polymorphous perverse." It is easy to love a baby, to realize the future rides with it. It isn't easy to love old people. How frequently we become impatient, how frequently we're downright disagreeable. The real test of

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"... 400 great men testified that 1 out of 3 had reached their greatest heights after the age of 60 and that another 25 per cent had achieved their success after the age of 70."

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love is toward people who are hard to love. The real thrust of ethics is to love people who are not lovable.

There have been many changes in the last decade. One of the differences has to do with the fact that there are fewer children born. It appears that there will be more nursing homes than nurseries. There will be fewer kids playing football, and there will be more footwarmers. It appears that the percentage of older people will be greater in the years to come, becoming the largest minority in the United States—greater than organized labor. A psychiatrist has pointed out another problem confronting people—retiring at 45-55. There will be more people psychologically unemployed. The decrease of the productivity of people and the shortening of the hours of labor mean that there will be fewer people to support more and more “older people.”

A heroic effort must be made to recycle people into life, rather than to retire them from life. We will also be facing an entirely new set of problems. If we are facing the question of abortion at one end, we may look forward to the question of euthanasia at the other end.

There are social thinkers who find significance in the present style of flowing beards and other facial adornment. Is it an attempt to look older, more mature? We are confronted by the desire of the young to be identified as old. Equally, there is the thrust toward older people to appear younger. One of the most famous impressarios in the United States was the late Billy Rose. His favorite charity was directed toward older actresses and actors. A face-lifting rejuvenation was his way of guaranteeing longer employment for superannuated actors. “Face lifting” was an important part of his plans. “Faith lifting” is perhaps a greater need. We are more spiritually flabby than physically underdeveloped.

We are no longer living in a rural community but an urban civilization. In older and more spacious days, homes were always large enough to house the physically and mentally sick. Today's smaller apartments contrast quite dramatically to the old country home with its sprawling comfort. One parent, the old proverb had it, can support ten children, but ten children cannot take care of one parent.

Mobility has denuded many communities of significant individuals who counted; it has replaced men and women who had labored a lifetime for service and status with a massive mass of indifferentiated humanity. They enjoy the sun, but somehow family solidarity has been factured. Children grow up without seeing too much of their grandparents. However, as I look at young people, there are some hopeful signs of the desire to rebuild the dynamic thrust of family revival.

Yet these towering apartment buildings and budding condominiums present an interesting, indeed, a tremendous challenge. Here is a vast



*I am old and my hair is gray.*

audience, a captive audience of people with a great deal of time upon their hands. These groups are largely homogeneous. Now this unique combination presents an unusual opportunity. It allows people to meet and make decisions in their councils, to decide what charities or solicitors to encourage. It encourages people to express themselves. These combinations of people, time and place make possible any number of courses to be given. Yiddish, French, Spanish, Hebrew, folk-songs—all of these present an educational challenge.

One of the real challenges for these old timers is to keep alive and alert mentally. When I look at some of these older folks, I know they are worried by the erosion of the dollar; and in some cases there is definitely malnutrition. If there seems to be some belief that they cannot keep up the learning process, it is because they are hungry. They suffer intellectually because of the lack of vitamins and food.

We ought to recognize that there are older people who continue to learn. Few of us are like Renan, the famous French scholar, who decided to learn Chinese when he was 90 years of age. When told that it was a difficult language, he said, “If I were to die tomorrow, I would continue today.” In our own day, there is Dr. Mordecai

*(continued on next page)*

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*Dr. Rudolph M. Rosenthal is a rabbi at the Temple on the Heights, Cleveland, Ohio. This is an edited version of an address presented during the NICA Third Annual Assembly held in conjunction with the Institute on Religion and Aging.*



## The Winter of Our Discontent

(continued from page 33)

Kaplan. He is the founder of the school of Reconstructionism, a philosopher-theologian possessed of a razor-sharp mind. Dr. Kaplan is 93. We are too prone to write people off. When we come to the matter of age, there is an astounding testimony in a book, **The Senior Citizen**. The author testifies that "400 great men testified that 1 out of 3 had reached their greatest heights after the age of 60 and that another 25 per cent had achieved their success after the age of 70."

A number of tests made by Dr. Kinsey and the Duke Geriatric Center have demonstrated not only the need for sexuality but of emotional life in the larger sense. The newer education theories about touch, the recognition that we need friendship, warmth, all of these have important implications. The need for more affection and contact in the lives of our elders should affect the kind of homes in which they reside. It should also provide for privacy.

The other day I read an appropriate sentiment written by Richard Cardinal Cushing: "Slow me down, Lord, ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my mind. Steady my hurried pace with vision of the eternal reach of time. Give me, amidst the confusion of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills. Grant the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the soothing music of the singing strings that live in my memory. Help me to know the magical restoring powers of sleep. Teach me the art of taking minute and minute vacations, of slowing down to look at a flower, to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book. Remind me each day of the fable of the hare and tortoise, that I may know that the race is not always to the swift and that there is more to life than increasing in speed. Let me look upward into the branches of the towering oak and know that it grew great and strong because it grew slowly and well. Slow me down, Lord, and inspire me to send my roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values, and I may grow toward the stars, the stars of my greater destiny."

**Don't forget**

## 1976 Senior Citizen of the Year

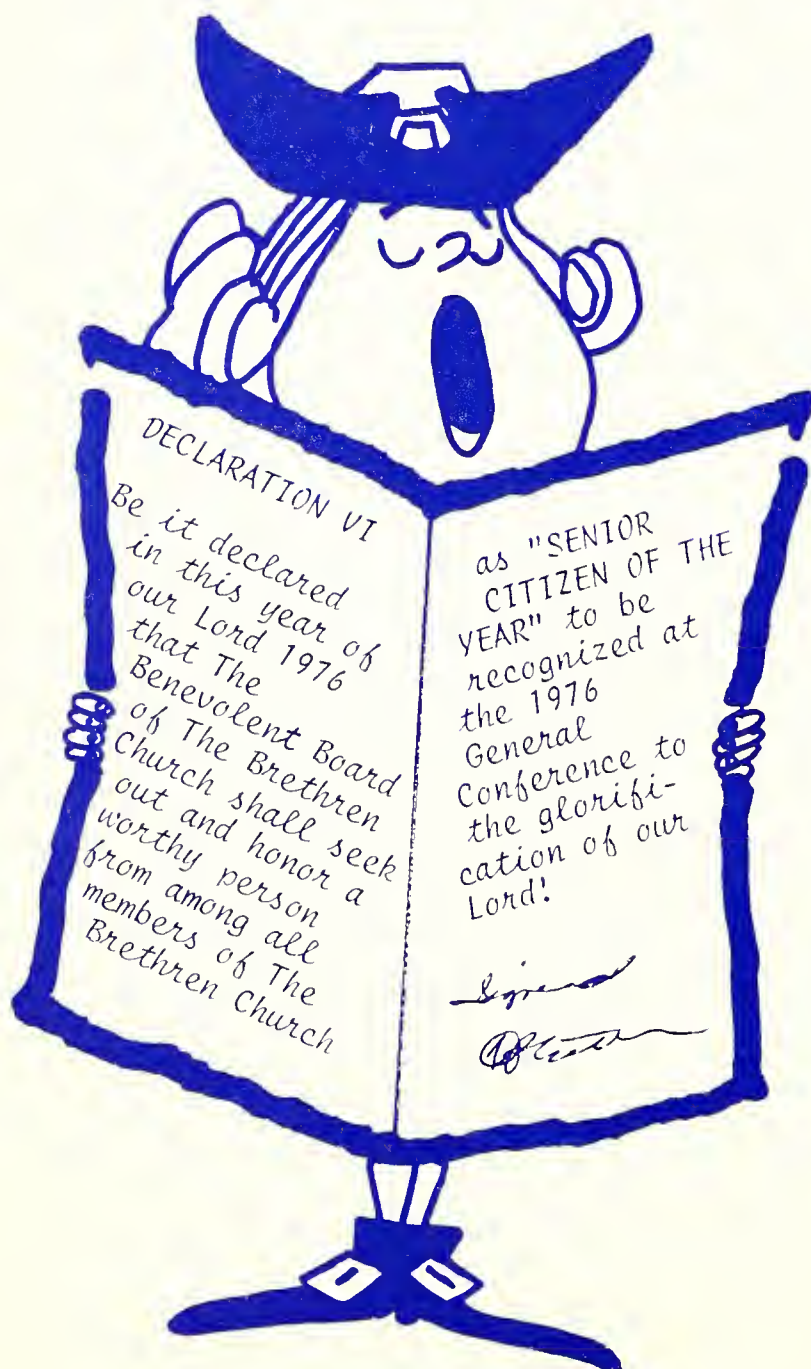
Response to the Senior Citizen of the Year program has been very enthusiastic. The April issue of the Brethren Evangelist carried accounts of Senior Citizens' Sunday in some of our churches. From reports we have received we know many other Brethren churches also honored their senior citizens. Our objectives, to make our congregations aware of the value of our elderly and to honor a worthy recipient for service to the church and community, are being realized.

A few local nominees for the National Senior Citizen of the Year award have been received in the national Benevolent Board office. We want to remind all congregations that the Senior Citizen of the Year form for the local nominee **must** be submitted no later than July 15, 1976, for national consideration.

The national winner and his local church will be notified of his selection as Senior Citizen of the Year and arrangements will be made for receiving the award at the 1976 General Conference, August 9-13.

If any churches need forms for distribution to nominate local senior citizens (where the program has not been completed), please write and let us know your needs. All requests and submission of local nominees should be made to:

THE BENEVOLENT BOARD  
625 Center Street  
Ashland, Ohio 44805





# *benevolent care*

## *Church and Community Checklist*

Congregations who are planning to initiate a senior citizens' program or those who have a group that needs new impetus will find the check list below helpful.

This questionnaire may be reproduced for use

in the local church or as a vehicle in the community to determine needs. Returns from the checklist can be the basis for determining the directions your local program should take as it develops.

How do your church and community rate? Do they have....

- ☐ A citywide or areawide information and referral center
- ☐ An area agency on aging, local council, or advocate agency
- ☐ A senior center or centers, offering social activities, recreation, education, and a setting for community services
- ☐ Health care services, including:
  - ☐ health clinic
  - ☐ health maintenance organization
  - ☐ health screening program
- ☐ In-home services, including:
  - ☐ visiting nurse service
  - ☐ handyman service
  - ☐ home-health service
  - ☐ telephone reassurance
  - ☐ homemaker service
  - ☐ meals-on-wheels
- ☐ Nursing home or homes with high standards and a wide range of fees
- ☐ Group meals program, providing a social setting for improved nutrition for older persons
- ☐ Recreation activities for seniors
- ☐ Library, museum, art gallery, and performing arts programs for older people
- ☐ Adult education opportunities
- ☐ Job opportunities
- ☐ Volunteer opportunities
- ☐ Senior talent pool
- ☐ Senior citizens' employment service or job registry
- ☐ Legal aid and general counseling
- ☐ Low-rent public housing for the elderly
- ☐ A range of moderate income housing for sale and rent
- ☐ Repair and renovation program for existing "elderly housing"
- ☐ Property tax relief for older Americans
- ☐ Transportation and escort services (via Council on Aging, FISH, or other groups)
- ☐ Senior citizen discounts at stores, restaurants, etc.
- ☐ Day care center for elderly
- ☐ Organization for elderly in the church (GAF or some similar program)
- ☐ Benevolent committee or ministry of elderly in the church
- ☐ Worship service tapes to shut-in elderly
- ☐ Skills and crafts taught by seniors to other age groups of the church
- ☐ Large print materials in library or classes of the church
- ☐ Church funds designated for senior activities and projects
- ☐ Good sound system(s) in the church
- ☐ Projects in the church to be accomplished by seniors
- ☐ Foster grandparent program in the community



# auxiliary programs for june

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## signal lights

written by  
Alberta Holsinger

### Call to Worship:

Some serve by singing;  
Some serve by helping;  
Some serve by teaching;  
Some serve by preaching.  
How will you serve  
The God of love?

**BIBLE THEME: Serving God**

## A Preacher Serves God

Philip was a preacher. He told the people of Samaria of the true Savior. Many of them believed and were baptised.

One day God asked Philip to leave Samaria. He asked him to go to the desert place of Gaza.

Philip went. As he walked along the road he noticed a man riding in a chariot. Philip could tell by the chariot and the clothes the man was wearing that he was from the court of Queen Candace of Ethiopia. The man was reading.

"Go and speak to the man," God seemed to be telling Philip.

"Me? Speak to that man?" thought Philip. "He's from the court of the queen. I'm just a poor preacher. He wouldn't want to talk with me."

Still Philip felt the urging. "Go, speak to the man."

Hesitantly Philip approached the chariot. It was then he saw that the Ethiopian was reading from the Bible.

"Do you understand what you are reading?" asked Philip.

"No," said the man. "Stop the chariot," he called to the driver.

Then he said to Philip, "I need someone to explain it to me. Do you know this Book? Can you explain it to me?"

"Indeed I do know the Book," replied Philip. "And I trust the God of that Book."

"Then ride with me awhile," invited the man. "Tell me of this God."

Philip climbed into the chariot.

With a crack of the whip the driver started the horses again.

As they rode Philip told the Ethiopian of God who made the earth and everything in it. He told him of God's Son Jesus who came to be a Savior for all people. He told him a person needs to believe Jesus and be baptised to be saved.

The Ethiopian listened carefully. At times he asked questions. The things Philip was telling him were right. He knew in his heart they were.

The Ethiopian noticed a pool of water a short distance ahead of them. "Look, there is water. May I be baptised?"

"If you believe you may," answered Philip.

"I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God," replied the man.

Once more he commanded the driver to stop the chariot. The Ethiopian went into the water with Philip and was baptised.

Then he continued on his way to Ethiopia where we may be sure he told his friends of the living Savior.

Philip went to the city of Azotus where he continued to preach.

Some day God may want you to be a preacher. Will you obey Him as Philip did?

(Based on Acts 8:26-40)



## A Good Home

Rama and Larry sat beside the dusty road at the edge of the city.

Larry picked up a handful of stones and threw them one at a time onto the road. As he tossed the last stone he said, "Mom and Dad and I leave for home tomorrow."

Rama nodded. "I know."

"I'll miss you," said Larry.

"I'll miss you, too," said Rama. "You are a good friend."

"I'm glad you ran into Dad," said Larry. "And I'm glad you can stay in the Christian children's home."

"It is a good home," agreed Rama. "I have food and clothes and a bed. No one has ever been so kind to me."

"It is because Christians love Jesus," explained Larry. "And Jesus said we should help others. You will learn about Him."

"I've been at the home only a week," said Rama, "but already I've heard many wonderful things about your Jesus."

Larry pointed down the road. "Look at that boy and girl. See how they walk from side to side? What's wrong with them?"

"I think they're blind," answered Rama. "There are many blind children in India."

"Can we help them?" wondered Larry.

"We'll find out," Rama said. Then he called to the children. "Hello! I'm Rama. This is my friend Larry."

The two children stopped. "I'm Singh, and this is my sister Ahna. We are blind. We heard there is a doctor in Rajahmundry who can give us new eyes. We have been walking five days. Are we almost there?"

"You are at the edge of the city now," answered Rama. "I do not know the doctor you speak of, but I know where we can ask about him. Come with us."

Rama took Ahna by the hand. Larry took Singh's hand. As the four youngsters walked toward the children's home Larry was humming "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world..."

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### Next Month in Signal Lights

- We'll learn how a woman served by giving,
- And we'll find out how Ahna and Singh receive help at Rama's new home.

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## sisterhood

Dear Sisters,

This is the time of the year when many of us—whether in junior high, high school, college, or at work—are making schedules for the coming months. I would like to make you aware of how important it is for you to **plan** time in your daily schedule for communing with the Lord. I have had many failures in this area and have spent a lot of time considering what to do to solve it. So, as I write, I will be exploring for myself and hopefully helping you, too. I am certainly not the authority on this subject, but I would like to share my thoughts with you.

I can see how it is easy for some Christians to have a problem not spending time with God, even though they realize it can really hurt their spiritual lives. Christians who are active church members are often active in school and community activities also. When these people have numerous activities, meetings, and rehearsals to attend, not to mention spending time with friends, dates, and family, seeking occasional relaxation, and

getting a good night's sleep; it is tough to take even an extra half hour to read, pray, and meditate. I know, because I have been battling this for a few years.

Sometimes I get so frustrated and angry with myself, I just quit worrying about it and do not even try to read the Bible or pray much. If I can keep it out of my mind so it does not bother me terribly, I am O.K. for awhile. But soon my guilt and neglect catch up with me, and I try again.

It seems to me that after being brought up in a Christian home and being a Christian for 12 years, one would learn how to take time to be with God alone. But I have not. And I imagine there are many other Christians who have not either. Maybe you are one.

I think one important factor is this: we have to **plan** time for God, not just give Him what is left over after everything else is done! That is why I mentioned planning our schedules. For those of us who are students it may be possible to arrange

(continued on page 40)



*"Developing Spiritual Gifts"*  
written by Ruth Barber  
for Seniors

## They Used Their Gifts

We've discussed for several months the gifts that you, a Sisterhood girl, might possibly have that you should develop and use to help your church grow. This month let's take a look at the Scriptures and see what some of the early church members did that helped the first century church grow. Each of you will need a Bible, a pencil, and a piece of paper. Divide these 11 references among the girls present at the meeting. For each reference you are to find two pieces of information: who is the first century Christian being discussed and what did he/she do that helped the early church grow? Take five minutes to look up the following references and then share your results with each other.

1. Acts 17:10-12 (the group of people, not Paul and Silas)
2. Acts 9:36, 39
3. Colossians 4:12, 13
4. II Timothy 1:2-5
5. Matthew 27:57-60
6. II Timothy 1:16-18
7. Romans 16:1, 2
8. Romans 16:3-5
9. Acts 9:43
10. I Corinthians 16:17, 18 (three people mentioned)
11. II Timothy 4:13

We all know the famous Bible characters who contributed to the early church—the great missionary, Paul; the great preacher, Peter; the first martyr, Stephen; and Luke, who traveled with Paul and wrote the third Gospel. But what about some of the fairly unknown church members—the "little people"? There were thousands of them, just like you and I, who loved the Lord Jesus and did what they could. Some of the references that you looked up talked about people whose names you recognized, but other names may have been completely new to you. Let's share what you found out. (Let each girl read what she discovered in her Scripture reference. If the leader desires, she can add to the discussion by sharing some of the following information. After each girl has shared the information she found in her reference, the group should contribute brief ideas of how this idea could help their church grow **today**.)

1. **The Bereans** were a group of people who searched the Scriptures daily. No church will grow unless its people are so convinced of the truth and importance of God's Word that they regularly study the Scriptures. Does your church have a regular Bible study? Do you attend? Do you read your Bible daily? Do you regularly attend Sunday school and worship services, carrying your Bible and following along in it during the study?

Are you a member of a school or neighborhood Bible study group?

2. **Dorcas** was a woman who did good works and gave gifts to the poor. Do you do "good works"? Do you ever visit elderly or sick members of your church? Do you collect clothing or give money to groups like World Vision? Do you ever remember that needy families are just as hungry in June as in December?

3. **Epaphras** was a man of prayer. He prayed zealously for the church members of Colossae. Do you have a regular prayer time? Do you pray for other members of your church? Do you spend more time praying for people who are in trouble than talking about them? No church will grow unless members are willing to spend time in prayer.

4. **Eunice and Lois** were a grandmother and a mother who passed on their faith. Perhaps you're saying, "Well, I'm not a mother or a grandmother." True, but even now God expects you to share your faith with other members of your family. If you have younger brothers and sisters, you probably don't realize the influence you have on their lives. If they see an active, loving faith in you, they'll know that Jesus Christ is alive and working today.

5. **Joseph of Arimathaea** was a rich man who personally buried the body of Jesus in his own tomb. You say you're not rich? Do you share what you have? Do you ever use your stereo or cassette tape recorder to let friends hear about Jesus? Have you shared your **Campus Life** magazine, the new book you bought, or even that new dress?

6. **Onesiphorus** visited Paul in prison. He ministered to him—perhaps brought him food or medicine or warm clothing. How do you minister to members of your church? You can pray for them (and with them). You can be an optimist instead of a pessimist around your pastor. You can be a Sunday school substitute teacher or offer to clean the church or mow the grass for a shut-in!

7. **Phebe** was a business woman who helped (succored) many people, including Paul. Who do you help? Your mother? Your younger brother or sister? A church member who needs a baby sitter? Part of the love of Jesus is shown in the way we minister to others in the Body.

8. **Priscilla and Aquila** were Paul's helpers. The Roman church met at their house. What church group meets at your house? Sisterhood? Neighborhood Bible study? Parties for the young people? I pray that your home is open to the church whenever it's needed. (Of course, you should help Mom clean up and prepare refreshments.)

*(continued on page 39)*



written by  
Pauline Benshoff  
for Juniors

## Lord of Everything

**Opening Thought:** It isn't a very popular thought anymore for believers to assert that Christ is Lord of their lives. Many will say "Oh yes, I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son, that He died on the cross and shed His blood on Calvary for my sin," but many will not admit to nor ascribe to the fact that they want Christ in control of their lives. Yet the Lordship of Christ entails all areas of a Christian's life.

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 6:19-34

**Prayer:**

**Chorus:** He is Lord (Based on Philippians 2:11)

**Leader:** Since the Lordship of Christ does take priority over everything else in our lives, let us bring to mind this evening a few ways He will be in control and how that control will affect us.

**Topic I: Lord of our mind and thoughts**

When the Lord is in control of the mind and what it thinks, He can do great things for us and with us. As in Matthew 9:38, He points out the need of laborers in His harvest field. You see, He points out the needs of others and how we can help meet those needs. In Philippians 2:5, we are admonished to have the mind of Christ, that is to let Him control our minds. In Philippians 4:8 and 9, we are even told what to think about: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and

seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

**Topic II: Lord of our beliefs and traditions**

Sometimes in our churches we have practices or traditions of long standing which become a part of the Christian's beliefs. The sad part is that many times we don't question our traditions at all; we just follow along, generation after generation, never realizing they are manmade ideas that have been followed for many years. Why not look into the traditions and beliefs you've had handed down to you. Do you have scriptural basis for them? How can we please God by obeying man's will? In Mark 7:9 Jesus said, "Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition." We may be guilty of helping to preserve elements of religion that aren't basically scriptural. Are you reading the Word enough and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your learning so that you can tell the difference? The Lord wants to be the foundation upon which you base your faith and beliefs.

**Topic III: Your body is the Lord's**

I Corinthians 6:19 says, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." If you were entertaining a king in your home, you'd want everything right up to snuff. Well, in your heart you are to be entertaining the King of Kings, so keep the habits clean, the speech clean, and the thoughts clean, and you can be an acceptable "temple" for the Spirit to dwell in.

**Topic IV: Lord of our whole life and ambitions**

After we accept Christ, our goal should be to serve cheerfully and faithfully in God's Kingdom. There are many areas of service, but we should stir up the gift that God has given us and use it to His glory. To be a good disciple involves a willingness to let Jesus choose our way for us. We have to deny the "self nature." We must learn to set aside personal likes, desires, and ambitions in order to do and be what we know will please God. God has priority in our lives. God has a particular plan for each person, and it is up to us to know His will for us. Let's offer ourselves to the Lord, our whole life and our ambitions, and just see what the Lord does for us. You can count on Him to give you great peace of mind and a happy spirit that will help you as you prepare for your life's work. Let Christ be Lord of your life.

**Benediction:**

**Business:**

**Refreshments:**

## They Used Their Gifts

(continued from page 38)

9. **Simon**, a tanner, kept Peter in his home. Is your home open to the visiting evangelist? Have you provided meals for the guest speaker—or even had the pastor or members of your congregation in for coffee and cookies?

10. **Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus** refreshed Paul's spirit. Is it refreshing to have you around? Do you lift people's spirits? Are you willing to spend time with those who are discouraged, counseling and praying with them?

11. **Paul is asking Timothy** to bring him his cloak and books. Are you willing to run errands? Are you honest and reliable? When a friend asks you for help, will you go out of your way to help him?

(Close with prayer, asking the Lord to make you willing to share your gifts with your local church.)



General Secretary's Notes  
(continued from page 37)

our classes so that that extra hour or half hour comes at a good time and place for our devotional time. We could: schedule classes to start an hour later in the morning to give Him some time early in the day; schedule an extra long lunch break; plan our evening activities with some extra time before or after for Him; or even plan to have devotions as a break from studying. The same suggestions may be possible for working people. Certainly something can be arranged so you and God can be together for a short while each day.

The Park Street Task Force for Church Growth talked about tithing one Sunday. We have all heard about giving one tenth of our money to God as tithe. Leviticus 27:30-32 talks about the law requiring a tithe of the produce of the land and the animals also. What about tithing our time? There are 168 hours in one week, so 16.8 should be given to God. Or if you want to count only waking hours, with eight hours of sleep each night, there are 104 hours left, the tithe of which would be about 10 hours, or one hour and 26 minutes per day. This should be time reserved strictly for God and you alone, not including the brief prayers offered before a test or a meal, or the continuous contact with Him throughout the day.

I had never figured out the amount of my time

tithe until now, and even one tenth seems like a lot. I feel the least I can do is give Him a good half hour or hour, then work up to a full tithe. I still feel that I am skimping on God!

In Sunday School recently Dr. Jerry Flora discussed this subject with us. Luke 4:42 is one place where, after a long hard day of healing and preaching, Jesus "departed and went into a lonely place" to pray and be alone with His Father. (If Jesus needed to get away, as close as He was to God, how much more do we need to!) Active Christians do many "works" (activities, meetings, and so forth) which are a necessary part of our lives, but we need to have a balance of work **and** worship. Dr. Flora compared this to the two oars in a rowboat. We cannot get anywhere using just one oar, except to go around in circles. The same applies to our Christian lives. With all work and no worship we will soon be going around in circles, frustrated and not growing.

I challenge you (and myself) to plan time for God, starting right away as much as possible and placing it definitely into your schedule for this summer and fall. Let us pray for each other as we each try to be better Christians and children of God.

Your sister in Christ,  
Nancy

P.S. I hope **your** group has sent me your activity writeup from this year. If not, there is still a week or two to send it to me. (See March **Evangelist** for details.)

SMM Scholarship

I would like to receive an application for the 1976 SMM Scholarship.

My name is:

address

My SMM Patroness is:

address

My pastor is:

address

My high school guidance counselor is:

school address

Return this form to:  
Nancy Ronk  
227 College Ave.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805  
Be sure to include all information.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

A collusion is a fraudulent agreement whereby two or more parties seek to circumvent the law? (According to the papers, there are some who try to do the same with collision.)

On June 8, 1869, Ives W. McGaffey of Chicago, Illinois, gave us the vacuum cleaner. (On April 15th the I.R.S. still uses it.)

There is no such thing as an irresistible force meeting an immovable object? (Oh no? What is it called when Mom and Dad try to decide where the vacation is to be spent?)

That the age of a tree can be determined by counting the concentric rings of its cross section? (Middle age in a man can sometimes be determined by the mid-section.)

Thomas Edison was the first person to say hello on the telephone. (He was also lucky enough to be the first person not to get a wrong number.)

A cubic yard of air weighs more than two pounds. (In Los Angeles you can't lift a cubic yard of air.)

by George Schuster



written by  
J. Perry Deeter

## Water

Water is one of the common things on God's great earth that we all take pretty much for granted. Recently the Moody film "Where the Waters Run" was shown at our church. This movie really makes one think more about the miracle of water and the fact that only God, with His infinite wisdom, could have created a liquid with the unique characteristics which make water so vital and necessary to us.

For instance, let's consider the two gases that, when combined in the right proportion, form water. Each molecule of water contains one atom of oxygen and two atoms of hydrogen. It is interesting to note that hydrogen gas is highly inflammable and oxygen also is very combustible. In fact, a fire will not burn without oxygen. But when these two gases are combined in the proper proportion we have water, which is used to fight many types of fire.

Have you ever stopped to think of the many ways in which we use water in our every day lives? Without water to drink, we could live only a few days. There would be no animal or plant life. Without water, the earth would be a lifeless planet like the moon. Our bodies are made up of two-thirds water. Water is the medium by which food is carried in the body and by which wastes are removed. Water cools the body by evaporation from the sweat glands. Cleanliness made possible by the use of water guards our bodies from disease. Preparation and cooking of food require a plentiful supply of pure water.

In addition to these every day uses of water to sustain our lives, there are many uses in science and industry. Water is the all-important solvent in construction work and in manufacturing processes. Science and medicine rely heavily on chemical formulas which use water. I already mentioned that water is an effective way of fighting most fires. Water provides the world with recreational facilities, electric power, transportation, steam, and irrigation. The list seems almost endless.

It is interesting to think about how much water it takes for some of the ordinary processes that we take for granted. On the average, it takes 1,000 pounds of water to produce one pound of food. Forty thousand gallons of water are needed to make the steel in one automobile. The average tree takes 50 gallons of water from the soil each day. Three thousand gallons in food and water are used to produce a pound of beef.

About three-fourths of the surface of the earth is covered with water. Of course, most of this water, found in the oceans of the world, is not

pure but is salt water. It has been calculated that if the surface of the earth were completely leveled off, it would be entirely covered by water with a depth of between 8,000 and 9,000 feet! But even with all this water around us, there are still many sections of the world that have serious problems due to the shortage of water.

Water has some very interesting characteristics which we do not think of often. When water is turned into the solid form (ice), it is less dense than it was in the liquid form. In other words, water expands when it freezes. It is because of this important characteristic that ice will float on the surface of water. If it were not for this fact, the ice that is formed in cold weather would always sink to the bottom. Rivers, lakes, and even a large part of the ocean would freeze solid in the winter time. There would be no fish and very little other water life. This characteristic of water is the exact opposite of other liquids, for when other liquids are solidified, they become more dense, thus shrinking rather than expanding. Any one who has done any candlemaking has observed that the melted wax will shrink when it hardens.

The solvent action of water is another of its characteristics that is important to us. Water does not dissolve everything, but it dissolves so many different compounds that scientists sometimes call it the universal solvent. Every time water runs over the surface or trickles through the ground, it dissolves some of the substances there. Eventually the water carries these substances to the oceans or an inland lake. When the sun evaporates water, the dissolved materials are left behind. Salt is one of these materials.

How grateful we should all be that God has provided this wonderful, common liquid called water! Let's remember to thank Him for the provision of water for our physical needs. He also provides the "living water" for our spiritual needs. I hope to write about this and other Biblical references to water next month.



A mother talking to a friend said, "I just cannot understand how Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ can never see the mischief her children are always up to."

The friend replied, "Well, they say that a mother never sees the faults in her own children."

"Nonsense," replied the mother, "I'm sure I could recognize my own children's faults . . . if they had any."



*finally, brethren*

## Mother

Who can find a woman of character and strength?  
Her price is far above precious stones.

She cares for her family.  
The heart of her husband safely trusts in her.  
She will do him good, not evil, all her life.  
He is well known when he sits among the leaders of the land  
because of her life.  
She is not afraid of the snow for her household.  
Her family is clothed with scarlet.

She cares about herself, and about her relationships with others.  
She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom, and she speaks with kindness.

She assists the needy.  
She stretches out her hand to the poor.

She is industrious, not idle.  
She looks out for her household and does not eat the bread  
of idleness.  
She seeks wool and flax and works with her hands willingly.  
She considers a field, buys it, and plants a vineyard.

And what honor has such a woman?  
Her children rise up and call her blessed.  
Likewise, her husband praises her.  
Even her works praise her in the gates.

Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.  
A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

Variations on Proverbs 31.





*If you haven't "herd" about the flock coming to Ashland for the 1976 General Conference, "ewe" need to pay more attention!*

*Plan now to attend the  
1976 General Conference  
August 9-13  
Ashland, Ohio*

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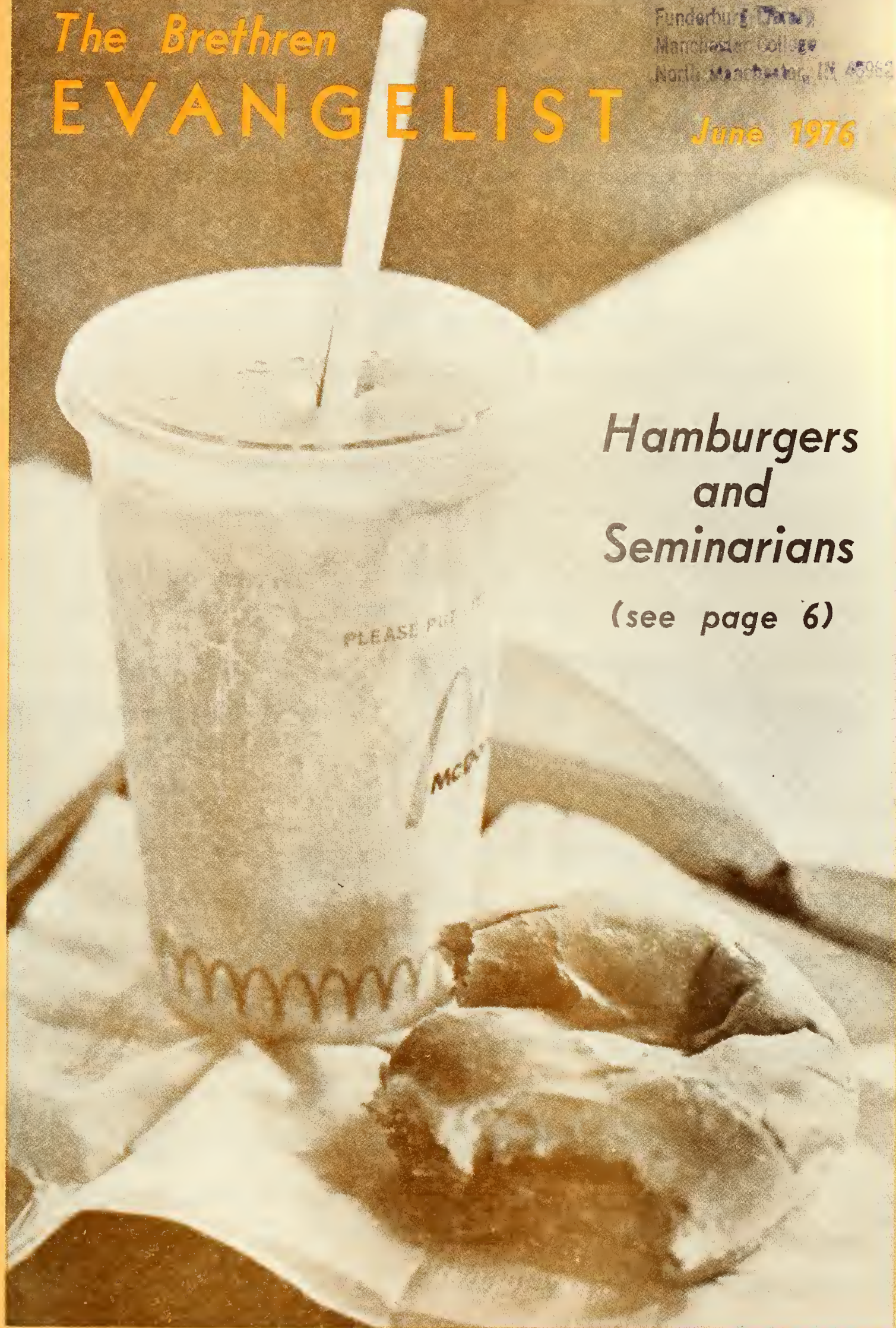
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*June 1976*

## *Hamburgers and Seminarians*

*(see page 6)*





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**editors' notes**

Dear Readers,

This month's issue contains material on Ministerial Student Aid and study articles for Peace Sunday.

The Ministerial Aid pages will be found in the centerspread of the magazine (pages 20-21). Don't miss Al Shifflett's related article on pages 6 and 7.

I know of no feature that receives more comment from our readers than the annual Peace Sunday materials. Study the articles prepared by the Peace Committee (beginning on page 10); if you would like to comment, send your letter to the Brethren Evangelist. We will, in turn, share your letter with the committee.

Watch the July issue for articles on our "Heritage of Hope."

In His Service,  
Ron Waters



# **BRETHREN CONFERENCE OF INDIANA**

## **District Conference**

**June 10-12, 1976**

**Shipshewana, Indiana**  
**(Brethren Retreat)**



**BIBLE LECTURER: Dr. Jerry Flora**

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**All-Conference Fellowship Meal**

**Friday afternoon—4:30**

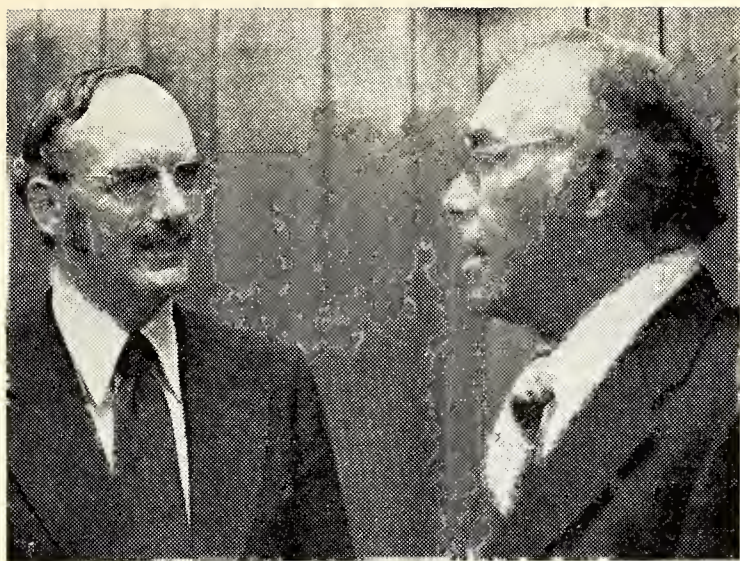
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**\$5.00 per person**

**Rev. William Kerner, Moderator**

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In a recent election held in the fair city of Nappanee, Ind., two members of the Nappanee First Brethren Church were elected to positions of prominence.

Dick Best became the city judge (watch your speeding when going through Nappanee); and John Mellinger became our honorable mayor. Both of these men assumed office the first of the year. Mayor Mellinger presently manages the LuAnn Nursing Home located in Nappanee, Ind. Judge Best works for the Paul Inman Associates out of Detroit, Mich.

The judge generally holds court every Saturday in the city municipal building. In this position he resolves everything from wife-beating to high-speed launches on the public highway. Don't expect grace in his court—he's the most legalistic Arminian that ever set foot in court this side of eternal security!

Our honorable mayor manages a nursing home, but he's also responsible for running the city of Nappanee—day and night. At any hour he may get a call about someone's barking dog or the

## contact

*keeping Brethren in touch*

### Best and Mellinger:

### Here Come De Judge . . . And Mayor, Too!

failure of the police department to apprehend a prowler.

In his campaign Judge Best promised the people of Nappanee he would "do his best," which helped him get elected. Presently he is the "best" judge we have—in fact, he's the only one!

As you approach the city limits of Nappanee you'll see a sign which reads: "Welcome to the Maiden City of Nappanee, Mayor John Mellinger." There is also a posted speed limit. If you care to contest the "grace" of our local court system, just step on the accelerator and whiz through town. You'll probably be invited to see the honorable judge in court.

If it happens, throw yourself on the mercy of the court. Tell him you're Brethren to the core. Who knows, it might work! It's worth a \$30 to \$50 try!

—Alvin Shifflett, Nappanee, Ind.

*Other members of the Nappanee church who have served as mayor of the city are: Ralph Arnott (1939-1947), Everett Pippen, Jr. (1967-1971), and James Newcomer (1971-1975).*

## Randy Best: Another Milestone Passed

Graduating from Ashland Theological Seminary this June will be a gratifying experience for Randy Best—but that's not unusual for him. He says he's found most of his life gratifying.

"I grew up in a Christian home and had a good experience in the Nappanee First Brethren Church. I accepted Jesus Christ when I was eight. . . . In the eighth grade God called me into the ministry, and I spent the next eight years running from it."

But Randy did stop "running from it." While attending Ashland College, he was active in Gospel Teams and Alpha Theta, the primary Christian fellowship groups on campus at that time. He also received training from Campus Crusade for Christ in California during his college years.

After marrying his wife, Karen, he pastored the Bloomville United Methodist Church near Tiffin, Ohio, while completing his senior year of college. Then they were off to Lost Creek, Ky., for three years of teaching at the Riverside

Christian Training School. While there, Randy also taught for a year and a half at Calvary College and pastored the Rowdy church for two years.

In the fall of 1973 the Bests returned to Ashland, and Randy entered three years of seminary training. For two of those years he has pastored the United Church of North Fairfield, Ohio.

Randy enjoys working with high school students and feels God has given him a gift for counseling. He and Karen have also conducted many home Bible studies.

"I feel called to train laymen how to lead home Bible studies and how to counsel other people. . . . If we are really going to reach out, we have to prepare laymen to do the major part of the task. . . . God has been blessing Karen in this way, too, and we see ourselves as a team."

Other members of the Best team are Matt, 3, and Ben, 2.

—Ron Waters, Ashland, Ohio





Photo by Bruce Ronk

# *Hamburgers and Seminarists*

*by Alvin Shifflett*

I remember when you could buy a hamburger for 25¢ and still recognize it as a hamburger. The first McDonald's I ever visited was back in 1961 in Mansfield, Ohio. I was a rawboned seminary student, green as grass and poor as a starving church mouse. In fact, the church mouse probably had the better deal.

I graduated from Ashland Theo-

logical Seminary in 1965. Since then costs have risen astronomically. In 1961 when I entered seminary and also ate my first McDonald's burger (not on the same day), the tuition rate was so low that they almost paid us to enroll! This "cheap" tuition rate, unfortunately, could not last. Since my seminary days, the student body and faculty have increased



## What do hamburgers and seminarians have in common? Alvin Shifflett gives a humorous but provocative response.

nearly threefold. The facilities have changed drastically from the days when we met almost exclusively in what I referred to as "the morgue"—the old Myers mansion.

Many students, as I recall, were saddled with loans or indebtedness of one kind or another—even in those hallowed days of low tuition. Most of us were married, with a wife working, and holding outside jobs. (My pay check was so low that the bank cashier became a Christian just by cashing it. I guess she assumed that if anyone could live off that amount, then there must be a God!)

Some seminaries (like medical schools), frown on students having any outside work. I can understand that. I worked 40 hours per week and carried 12 hours credit per quarter in seminary. This was not unusual. Many did the same thing.

Such a schedule, however, impedes the effectiveness of the student's training. For example, a three-year course became a four-year course for me—not because of failure but because of limited credit hours carried. It also definitely affects reading time. Whenever I attempted to carry more than 12 hours along with my outside work load I heard loud noises in my head—like nuts and bolts clanging around!

Any seminary graduate can affirm what it cost to train for the ministry—seven or eight years of school, then minimum pay even after graduation (the salary scale in the Brethren Church is far lower than most denominations). If the seminarian graduates with any kind of indebtedness, this is going to add stress to his first pastorate. And no one needs additional stress in the pastorate. Who wants to be addicted to antacids?

I've come to see, more and more, that local churches need to empha-

size seminarian support. Presently Nappanee gives a \$1000 scholarship per year to any student in training for the ministry—in addition to \$3500 per year toward the seminary program. We presently have two young men in training—one graduates from seminary this June and another one is in college. We firmly believe in this base support from the local church and we include it in our annual budget.

Now I know exactly the arguments against this; I've heard them all. Don't give me that old saw that "he ought to sweat it out, or he won't be worth his salt!" Sweating it out might make a "real man" out of him, or it might make a nut in a strait jacket.

I sure could have used a \$1000 in seminary. The most I ever received in eight years was about \$400, and that was like manna from heaven. We went out to celebrate—at McDonald's! I would literally hide from Dr. Shultz at bill-paying time. He used to plead with us to pay our bills. Pay them with what—monopoly money? Talk about miracles . . . my checkbook balance was so low that I had to call a plumber to find it!

So please remember, when you're debating how much to give in support of a seminarian, you're investing in the future of the Brethren Church. You may not be able to give as much as Nappanee. Fine, but initiate something. That young man or woman you are supporting may someday win thousands to Jesus our Lord. That's the best interest money can earn.

Now, go buy a hamburger.

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*Alvin Shifflett is pastor of the First Brethren Church of Nappanee, Ind. He is the author of Blue Jeans Theology of James and has been published in several periodicals.*



# Philippi

by George Solomon

*Read the book of Philippians.*

In the book of Acts (the history of the early church), chapter 16, we find the Apostle Paul on his second missionary journey. He had visited churches in Asia Minor and was looking for new fields to conquer (vv. 6-8). A vision was given to him of a man from Macedonia saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." So Paul, along with his companions, Silas, Timothy, and Luke, set sail immediately, and arrived in Philippi in a very short time. There they met with some women on the riverbank and their message was well received. But before long they were falsely accused and thrown into prison. From this experience others were reached with the gospel (vv. 25-34).

So with a very unlikely mixture of people—a business woman named Lydia, a young girl out of whom Paul had cast an evil spirit, and a Roman jailer (who had been ready to commit suicide) and his family—the church in Philippi came into being. The last verse of Acts 16 may imply that there were others also. We do know that the church grew, for Paul named a number of others in his letter written several years later: Epaphroditus, the messenger the church sent to Paul in Rome; Euodis and Syntyche, two ladies that seemed to be at odds in the church; Clement; and other fellow-workers whose names are in the book of life (Philippians 4:2-3). When these came to faith in Christ we are not told. We do know that when Paul left Philippi, Timothy and Luke remained behind to provide leadership for this infant church, and the account bears testimony that the church grew into a sizable congregation.

Again, as we look into the Word of God to discover those things that characterize growing churches in the New Testament, we are not disappointed. While the church at Philippi had many of the characteristics already found in the churches we have considered, there is one thing that captivated my interest and I want you to explore it with me. Reading Philippians 1:3-6, we find that Paul spoke of their fellowship in the gospel from the first day to the present. He spoke here of something that characterized this church from the very beginning and that continued up until the time of the writing of this letter—about 10 years later. What was it? What did he mean by "your fellowship in the gospel"?

The Greek word **KOINONIA**, or **fellowship**, as it was used here did not refer to the sharing, the togetherness, the communion among believers which is so often described. It was not merely the fellowship of believers within the church—it was

"your fellowship in the gospel"! I think that means that the members of the church in Philippi joined with Paul, supporting him and personally becoming involved in the ministry of sharing the good news with others. They possessed a missionary zeal. We might translate this phrase "your partnership in the gospel ministry." One writer suggests "your co-operation in missionary work." As I explored this idea, I discovered a number of verses that would support this notion that the Philippian church entered into and supported Paul in his missionary endeavors in ways that were different from some of the other churches in the New Testament.

This "fellowship in the gospel" began "with the very first day," or the day that Lydia was baptized, the day she insisted that Paul and his associates lodge at her house, the day she offered her home as a meeting place for the church that God was bringing into being in Philippi. In fact, that very act was the start of this "fellowship in the gospel." Paul and his companions needed a place to stay if they were to remain in Philippi, and a place was needed for the believers to meet if the church was to become a reality. In offering her home, Lydia became a partner in the gospel ministry—she co-operated in the missionary work. "Until now" indicates that this kind of spirit, this kind of support, this kind of involvement was characteristic, not only of Lydia, but of the whole congregation, and that it was not just an enthusiastic response at the beginning, but it continued to be a mark of distinction with this church.

Let me share a few of the things I found as I explored this idea in the book of Philippians.

I

I first discovered that the Philippian church was a praying church (1:19). Paul was in prison; he was facing trial and possible execution, but he expressed confidence in two things that assured him that all would turn out all right. One thing was his faith in Christ—his confidence that Christ would supply every need according to His will and purpose for Paul. The other source of confidence was the intercessory prayers of the believers in Philippi. He knew they were praying for him. He knew that this needed prayer support was there, that he had many prayer partners in Philippi. In our denomination we have used a "Prayer Partner" program to support Summer Crusaders for several years. I think this is exactly



# A Growing Church

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what Paul said these Christians in Philippi were doing. They lifted him up daily in their prayers. **And this was one way that they had fellowship in the gospel.**

## II

I then discovered that the Philippian church was a joyous church (2:18)! This entire letter to the Philippians is one of joy and rejoicing. Some twenty times the words ring out! The Christians at Philippi were joyous Christians. They found joy in serving Jesus. They found joy, not only in the growth of their own church, but in the success of Paul's missionary endeavors in other cities and countries.

And again, this is one of those things that speaks to us so clearly about attitude. A joyful spirit—a joyful attitude—is a tremendous plus factor in church growth! I believe that newcomers can readily sense the spirit of a church. And if there is real joy among the people, if they recognize the goodness of God and praise Him for it, if they are happy in the service of the King, **it will show.** It will show in their faces; it will show in the way they sing; it will show in the way they greet people! The world in which we live is such a sad and tragic world. More than any other place, people should find the spirit of joy in the church of Jesus Christ! Christians should be the most joyful, the happiest people in all the world, for they have the greatest cause for joy and rejoicing! And such joy gives birth to a gentleness of spirit. In Philippians 4:5 Paul says, "Let your gentleness be known to all people." Spread it around! Share it with others! "Rejoice in the Lord! and again I say, rejoice!"

## III

There is yet another great thing I discovered about the church in Philippi: it was a liberal church! Not liberal in the sense in which we usually understand it, but liberal in the sense of being generous—generous in the support of the gospel ministry (4:10). The New Testament bears record that on at least three occasions the church at Philippi sent a gift of money to Paul to support him in his missionary work. They were faithful stewards, and in this way they had "fellowship in the gospel." They became partners in the missionary thrust of that day.

This was not an easy thing for these Christians. God had not blessed them with great prosperity. In fact, it appears that this church was persecuted and set upon by hard times. We discover this as we read the second letter Paul wrote to Corinth where he challenged the Christians in Corinth to

give generously to the fund he was raising to help the Christians facing famine in Palestine. Listen to what he said about these Christians in Philippi: "We must tell you, friends, about the grace of generosity which God has imparted to our congregations in Macedonia. The troubles they have been through have tried them hard, yet in all this they have been so exuberantly happy that from the depths of their poverty they have shown themselves lavishly open-handed. Going to the limit of their resources, as I can testify, and even beyond that limit, they begged us most insistently, and on their own initiative, to be allowed to share in this generous service to their fellow-Christians. And their giving surpassed our expectations; for they gave their very selves, offering them in the first instance to the Lord, but also, under God, to us" (II Corinthians 8:1-5, NEB).

The Christians in Philippi had experienced great trials; times were hard; they were living in poverty! Phillips translates it: "They were down to their last penny." Yet they had found such real joy in the Lord that they would not think of not sharing in the offering for the needy Christians in Palestine. The key to this kind of spirit is found in the words, "They first gave themselves." People who really and truly give themselves to the Lord—people who are soundly converted—will be good and faithful stewards of their time, talents, and treasure. I am personally convinced that a church that becomes introverted to the point that it keeps and spends all of its money on itself—a church that is not generous and supporting missionary work—cannot be a growing church! **It is more likely to die!** The old illustration that compares the Sea of Galilee with the Dead Sea is so applicable. The Sea of Galilee receives cool, fresh waters into its northern-most extremity. It gives life to the sea-dwelling creatures that, in turn, have provided a living for fishermen and their families for generations. At its southern-most extremity the water flows out and the Jordan River carries it south until it comes to the Salt Sea, or Dead Sea. This sea is properly named, for nothing can live in its waters. Why? Because this sea has no outlet and the process of evaporation has left the water so salty that nothing can grow in it. So it is with the church that only receives and never gives. It cannot grow, for it lacks the capacity to produce and sustain life!

**Prayer, joy, generosity—all marks of a growing church!**

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*George Solomon is pastor of the First Brethren Church, Derby, Kans. His previous articles on growing churches appeared Nov. 1, 15, 29, 1975; and March 1976.*



# The Witness to Another Way

by Glenn "Doc" Shank

*The following article is presented as part of the peace study materials prepared by the Peace Committee of General Conference. The Brethren Evangelist welcomes your written comments. Responses will be forwarded to the Peace Committee.*

There has been some concern expressed recently by knowledgeable spokesmen in our fellowship that we need to recover our identity. We need to be more aware of our Brethren history and recover some of the vital ways in which early Brethren witnessed to the reality of Christ and His alternatives to the ways of the world. We carried such a dynamic witness at one time in our stand on peace.

Today it is clear that we can no longer legitimately be called a peace church. Most of our young people are not even aware of the issue of peace and most of our young men, at least in our modern history, have chosen the way of the state—to destroy enemies—rather than the way of Christ—to love enemies. We pay lip service to peace. We maintain a peace committee in our General Conference. But the days when renunciation of violence in personal and international relationships was integral to our view of Christian discipleship have long since departed. We are no longer a peace church, and we need to recognize that fact. Perhaps we need to confess that fact!

We use the word peace prolifically, but by that word we mean an internal, private tranquility, a personal composure, or a serenity of the inner man. If that is what the Bible means by peace, then peace is one display of God's Spirit that was missing from Jesus in Gethsemane or Jeremiah as he wept bitterly in prophetic anguish over a fallen Israel or John the Baptist as he spent his last moments living with some nagging uncertainties in his mind. Biblical peace is more a way of living with people than a way of

feeling inside. The gospel of peace is the message of restored relationships with God and with man. To a converted man, God's love becomes the norm that governs his relationships with all people, including friends and enemies.

Following man's initial disobedience to God, violence quickly became one live option in handling human disagreement. The murderous act of Cain against Abel was a prototype which has been followed countless times since. There is no doubt that one quite effective way of dealing with an enemy is to kill him. A dead man poses a threat to no one's security. There is, furthermore, no doubt that this answer to the threat of an enemy is the accepted and established way of dealing with the problem of aggression in the human family. One cannot question killing the enemy on the grounds of its effectiveness or on the grounds that there is no precedent for such an act. A Christian questions killing the enemy completely and exclusively on the grounds that Jesus Christ, in His teachings and in His life, allowed no room for that option.

In Jesus Christ we encounter another way of relating to the enemy:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:43-45).

In Jesus Christ we encounter another way of handling aggression:

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, do not resist one who is evil. But if any one strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if any one would sue you and

*(continued on next page)*



"Doc" Shank is pastor of the Gretna Brethren Church, Bellefontaine, O., and is a former missionary to Nigeria. He is also chairman of the Peace Committee of General Conference.



## Witness to Another Way

(continued from page 10)

take your coat, let him have your cloak as well; and if any one forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles" (Matthew 5:38-41).

In Jesus Christ we encounter one who prayed for the forgiveness of those responsible for His death. Here is one who died at the hands of His enemies when He could have called upon powers far beyond theirs to have them annihilated. Here is one who offers in His teachings and in His life's choices a real option to the way of the world with its enemies. Rather than destroying the enemy we can become a servant to the enemy. We can conquer evil by dying defenselessly at the hands of evil men, and

Jesus calls upon His disciples to do precisely that.

In Jesus Christ we encounter one who speaks as Lord not only of our lives but of all history. He speaks as Lord of the nations which are accountable to Him. He alone controls life and death, and behind His word stands resurrection power.

In a society where acts of violence done individually are prosecuted as criminal but acts of violence done corporately are applauded and decorated, we need to listen once again to the clear word of our Lord. In a culture where militarism flourishes and is glorified in television, films, and even the toys we buy our children, we need a fresh encounter with Jesus of Nazareth. In a country where "unfortunate but necessary" violence is spread across the television screen endlessly we are called upon to witness to another way. Gospel without peace is not Biblical gospel.

### REVISED LIVING BIBLE TO BE PUBLISHED IN '77

**CINCINNATI (EP News)**—A "thorough revision" of the best-selling Scripture paraphrase, The Living Bible, will go on sale next year, according to its originator, Dr. Kenneth Taylor.

Dr. Taylor said three problems with the current version have led to the revision—literary style, possible inaccuracies, and the "frankness that there is in the original" Hebrew, which he tried to reflect in The Living Bible.

The paraphraser noted that the Elizabethan English of more traditional Bible translations also used what was considered strong language for their time, and that Biblical curses were intended to sound crude.

Dr. Taylor said the biggest criticism he has had regarding The Living Bible comes from people who do not understand what a paraphrase is. He explained that it is a translation "thought for thought, not word for word."

Despite its critics, The Living Bible has sold some 18 million copies and returned more than \$15 million in royalties in the past five years to the Tyndale House Foundation for use in mission work. Among other things, the money has been used to translate the book into 100 foreign languages.

### GRACE COLLEGE NOW ACCREDITED

**WINONA LAKE (EP News)** — Grace College, operated here by the National Fellowship of Brethren Churches, is now fully accredited by, and a constituent member in, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools—the largest and best-known of the six regional accrediting associations in the United States.

The achievement marks the culmination of a 20-year quest by the college officials, according to President Herman A. Hoyt, who will retire Sept. 1, 1976. He will be succeeded by Dr. Homer A. Kent, Jr.

## Longtime Evangelist Readers Discovered

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—It has come to the attention of the editorial staff of the Brethren Evangelist that several of the subscribers to the magazine have been receiving it for a good many years.

Some time ago DeMain Warner of Goshen, Ind., wrote: "Suspect that I have had the Evangelist about as long as anyone and continually since about 1915. Am quite sure it would be of value if we could have more news from our local churches and their people, but I know it's hard to get folks to send it in." Mr. Warner also indicated his prayer support for Editor-in-chief John Rowsey and the rest of the Publishing Company staff.

In renewing his subscription to the Brethren Evangelist, Mr. Marion Richard of Lakeville, Ind., noted: "This paper has been in our family since 1909."

Pastor Wes Ellis wrote recently that Bernice Garrett has been "a member at Oakville for 70 years . . . still teaches Sunday school and is a good worker." Though he did not say how long she had received the Brethren Evangelist, we suspect it has been for several of those years. Mr. Rowsey also stated that Bernice is the subscription agent for the Oakville church.

We at the Brethren Publishing Company would be interested in hearing from others who have been receiving the Brethren Evangelist or using the Brethren Quarterly for 50 years or more. Why not jot us a card today with your name, address, length of use of Brethren publications, and comments. Our address is 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

We look forward to hearing from you.



# Peace--On Not Leaving It To The Pacifists

The Peace Committee of General Conference has selected **Peace—On Not Leaving It to the Pacifists** (Fortress Press, 1975, 88 pp., \$2.95) as the study text for this year's emphasis on peace.

Following are summaries of the chapters of the book as prepared by members of the Peace Committee. **Edna Logan** is a member of the Bethlehem Brethren Church in Harrisonburg, Va. **Keith Bennett** is pastor of the First Brethren Church of South Bend, Ind. **John Brownsberger** is pastor of the Hillcrest Brethren Church of Dayton, Ohio.

These summaries and quotations from the book are used by permission from Fortress Press.

## Chapter I

### *The Concept of Peace*

*by William Leshner*

Summary by Edna Logan.

Because of the enormity and complexity of the subject of peace, most people say, "There's no way, NO WAY!" Even Christians turn away, thinking the problem is too big.

Christ signaled a new reign of justice and humanity. Our faith in Him is our big resource. Peace is not just the absence of war, but it is something to work for.

We live in a fallen, broken world. Even so, we need a vision of peace. The lion and the lamb **will** lie down together. We are made for peace.

To know peace we need to trust something deeply. Christ is our peace, and He is the basis for our peacemaking. It is a long search, and we need faith to "seek peace and pursue it."

## Chapter 2

### *Toward a Christian Position on Peace*

*by Sigurd Lokken*

Summary by Edna Logan.

The 1960's will be remembered as a time when many Christians changed their thinking about war and participation in military activity. Most churches had felt no responsibility for the policies of the government.

In the past there have been three different positions that the church has taken: 1) the holy war, as in the Crusades, where the church itself waged war to achieve a special goal; 2) the just war, which assumed that war is a last resort but that the result would bring improved conditions; and 3) pacifism, which takes the position that all war is wrong.

We have a theology of war. The waging of war and participation in it has been elevated to

a sacred status with divine sanctions. We need a **theology of peace**. What might result if the imagination, creativity, and resources now invested in war were to be used on the same scale in a **department of peace**?

The Scriptures teach peace. Christ said, "Blessed are the peacemakers." "Love your enemies." "Turn the other cheek." "Go the second mile." He talked about what is needed and helpful for your neighbor, not what is right or equal or fair.

It seems to be easier for Christians to accept peace among individuals than among nations. Because of increased world travel and communication, we cannot live in isolation. We need to  
*(continued on next page)*



# Christian Position on Peace

(continued from page 12)

develop a sense of world community rather than the idea of the independence of the sovereign nation-state.

The church in America feels itself to be a powerless institution, but it is potentially a powerful force. It should lift its voice and say that the

government should never demand allegiance that is due only to God.

The church by nature is not national but international and worldwide. Barriers that often keep people apart are many times overcome in the communion of the church. The Christian community should transcend political issues.

So we should join in partnership with our fellow believers and commit ourselves to the task of building a community based on the **vision of world peace.**

## Chapter 3

# Psychology and Peace

by **Vernon Strempke**

Summary by Keith Bennett.

The approach of the psychologist is through study and experimentation to establish principles which explain, predict, and influence human thought and behavior. In regard to the causes of war and the resources for peace, psychology does not pretend to produce any final answers. Rather, the purpose of this chapter is to identify and interpret certain psychologically significant characteristics of thought and conduct among Christians with respect to war and peace.

The first thought in this regard has to do with the view of man and the resulting expectation of war.

Christians typically view man's nature in terms of its perverseness or depravity. Christians tend to make negative assessments of themselves and of others. For example, Luther was convinced by the Scriptures that there is absolutely no innate good in man. By his "fall" man lost his original innocence and exchanged his blissful state for a state of sin and misery. The fundamental failure of man was his refusal to put full trust and confidence in God and His Word. On the other hand, the person who believes in Christ enters into a new life of victory over sin, self, and the Devil.

For many people the dynamic tension inherent in Luther's theological stand is less than assuring and satisfying. Its ambiguous, even schizophrenic, character leaves them with a sense of hopelessness and futility concerning humankind.

The negativism which results from this stance of Luther regarding man leads many Christians into fatalistic, pessimistic attitudes toward war, or at best, apathetic attitudes toward war. They tend to regard war as inevitable. After all, didn't Jesus say in the Olivet Discourse of Matthew 24:6 that there will be wars and rumors of war?

The numberless wars in human history and the abundant experiential data appear to confirm man's powerful tendencies toward violent, destructive behavior and to justify the conclusion among the rank and file of people that it is the destructive behavior of individuals which makes possible collective expressions of aggressiveness and hostility in large scale warfare.

Psychologists have a somewhat different attitude. They argue that, even if destructive aggression were indubitably an innate human instinct, it would not necessarily mean that war is inevitable. They comment that social institutions are potentially capable of evolution, change, and even eradication. They refer to the near elimination of cannibalism, dueling, rites of human sacrifice, and slavery.

The chapter then discusses psychological mechanisms relating to war.

Heavy emphasis on man's violent nature does not explain war, but it does play an important psychological role in war's acceptance. An example is the fact that pacifism is rejected by most Christians as either impractical idealism or even heretical because it appears to deny the existence of original sin.

Thus mankind is psychologically prepared to accept war. Therefore what might be considered wrong or immoral when done by the individual becomes, when sanctioned by the group, not only acceptable but totally proper and right, so right that omitting it is deemed wrong. An individual may not approve the killing of another person upon sight or provocation. However, in war such killing not only may be authorized but commanded.

One of the other mechanisms is the stereotyping of the enemy. A keen awareness of man's evil nature creates a readiness to act and, in fact, can produce a defensive operation toward a stereotyped enemy.

Another factor is that the violent expression of anxiety, depression, and hostility toward oneself and toward others for being "by nature sinful and unclean" could be cathartic and, in some instances, therapeutic.

Another psychological mechanism is that killing has been made honorable. The psychological mechanism of stereotyping, projecting, and introjecting helps explain why Christians, like non-Christians, can often attribute to soldiers without qualification the "manly" virtues of heroism and courage

*(continued on page 30)*





## Summer Crusader Program

by Mark Baker

Another exciting summer is here, and the 1976 Summer Crusaders and Interns have been preparing for this unique and wonderful service to their Lord. The Summer Crusader Program is beginning its seventh summer, and the results of the past years can be viewed with objectivity. One is able to examine the experiences of the Crusaders and evaluate their effects upon the churches they've come into, the people they've met, and most importantly, their own personal spiritual growth. I have seen each of these aspects of the program in my own life and can truly testify to the blessings the Lord gives to each individual who is in contact with the Summer Crusader Program.

The opportunity for fellowship, interaction, and basic study is an important element of the Crusader's daily routine. Exposure to other brethren throughout the nation is also rewarding. We find a true feeling of concern and identity with Christ in all churches, and knowing we are not alone in our efforts is comforting and strengthening. Being a Summer Crusader also gives an opportunity for immediate service to Christ and His Church. Many Crusaders are students who must complete

their schooling before they are able to enter full-time Christian service. Summer Crusader work is a way to serve during our years of educational preparation, and the added field experience is an effective key to our training.

I am excited that the Lord has given me the opportunity to work with the program on another level, that of a BCE staff member. I am seeing that many young men and women are genuinely interested and committed to the Lord and the Brethren Church. It is uplifting to see the youth wanting to become actively involved in the work of the church.

The Summer Crusader Program cannot function effectively without the support of the brotherhood. We pray for God's guidance in our work with the program, and that the Brethren will be receptive to the needs of the program. Both prayer and financial support are needed to give forty young people the opportunity to serve this summer. Please give consideration to both of these means of support for this program which will transform the lives of not only our Crusaders and Interns, but perhaps your life as well. Your concern is greatly appreciated.

---

## 1976 Summer Crusaders

### INTERNS

Joan McKinney (Tucson, Ariz.)  
Jeannie Hesketh (Vandergrift, Pa. - Pleasant View)  
Craig Brown (Newark, Ohio)  
Stephen Barber (Herndon, Va. - Chandon)

### ARIZONA

Jon Barber (Herndon, Va. - Chandon)  
Tim Rowsey (Forreston, Ill. - Milledgeville)  
Sue Ellen Barnes (Tucson, Ariz.)

### SEARCH & DISCOVERY

Tim Garner, capt. (North Manchester, Ind.)  
Jean Troup (Fort Wayne, Ind. - Meadow Crest)  
Bobbi Miller (Goshen, Ind.)  
Randy Myers (Fairplay, Md. - St. James)

### CAMP BETHANY

Linda Zerbe, capt. (Peru, Ind. - Loree)  
Jean Slee (Roann, Ind.)  
Linda Waters (Massillon, Ohio)  
Karen Myers (Fairplay, Md. - St. James)

### EDUCATION I

Donna Shank, capt. (Bellefontaine, Ohio - Gretna)  
Becky Hamilton (West Alexandria, Ohio)  
Betsy Saylor (Union Bridge, Md. - Linwood)  
Deanne Lynch (Conemaugh, Pa. - Vinco)

### EDUCATION II

Carol French, capt. (West Alexandria, Ohio - Eldorado)  
Jane Drexler (Louisville, Ohio)  
Mary Ellen Bates (Waynesboro, Pa. - Wayne Heights)  
Mary Lamb (Paris, Ohio - Canton Trinity)

### SONLIFE '76

Jeff Lentz, capt. (Nappanee, Ind.)  
Tom Keplinger (Silver Hill, Md. - Washington)  
Jim Black (Milledgeville, Ill.)  
Kerry Scott (Winona Lake, Ind. - Warsaw)  
John Black (Milledgeville, Ill.)  
Steve McPherson (Bellefontaine, Ohio - Gretna)  
Susie Keslar (Acme, Pa. - Valley)  
Elaine Hensley (Penn Laird, Va. - Mt. Olive)  
Nancy Dreyer (Tucson, Ariz.)  
Deb Munson (Ashland, Ohio - Park Street)  
Deb Michael (Lanark, Ill.)  
Cathy Comfort (Mishawaka, Ind.)

### DRAMA

Tracy Wilt Jr., capt. (Hillside, Md. - Washington)  
Jim Miller (Johnstown, Pa. II)  
Martha Deardurff (Bellefontaine, Ohio - Gretna)  
Becky Scott (Winona Lake, Ind. - Warsaw)  
Jeanne Workman (Chadwick, Ill. - Milledgeville)



# church growth forum

## Who Needs To Be Evangelized?

Evangelism—who needs it? Or, more precisely, let us ask, “Who needs to be evangelized?” To this question many give an all inclusive answer—everybody. Yet this very answer, though true in general terms, tends to remove the urgency from evangelism.

What is evangelism? Evangelism is sharing the good news about Jesus Christ—his life, death, and resurrection. Evangelism is sharing who Jesus Christ is, what He has done for people, and how people can come into new life through faith in Him. Evangelism is persuading people to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and to become His disciples.

Who, then, needs to be evangelized? Is it people who have already made a decision for Christ? No! Christians need to be edified. They need nurtured in the Christian faith and life. It's **non-Christians** who need to be **evangelized**.

Failure to recognize this basic distinction has seriously diluted the effectiveness of many of our evangelistic strategies. When we focus our evangelistic strategies on “everyone,” few respond. Most who hear the message have previously decided to follow Jesus.

The target group for evangelism is the unchurched non-Christian. Therefore, our evangelistic strategies would be much more productive if they were structured to get the gospel message to unchurched people where they are. Evangelistic strategies geared to Christians are destined to remain unproductive and fruitless, but those purposely geared to reaching the previously unreached will bear fruit.

In this light, here are several statements which are helpful in developing **evangelistic** strategies.

- 1) The number of unchurched people in your community should determine your **numerical goals**.
- 2) Their problems should set your **program goals**.
- 3) Their fears and insecurities should define your **approach** to them. (Do you know the specific ways in which they are hurting? How can you be used by God to help heal those hurts?)
- 4) Their hangups should specify your **strategy**.
- 5) Their culture should describe your **style** for ministering to them.

All these statements make sense when we realize that evangelistic strategies are to be focused on reaching unchurched people. The **substance** of the message which we share with non-Christians never changes. It comes from Jesus Christ—his teaching, his death, his resurrection. We can be flexible in choosing our strategies for evangelism and still not sacrifice the essential substance of our message. The Holy Spirit sets the **spirit** within which we fulfill our evangelistic strategies.

Who needs to be evangelized? Everybody? No! Only the **unevangelized**! We should aim our evan-

gelistic strategies directly at the unchurched and do everything that is necessary to communicate the good news of God's love and forgiveness to them.

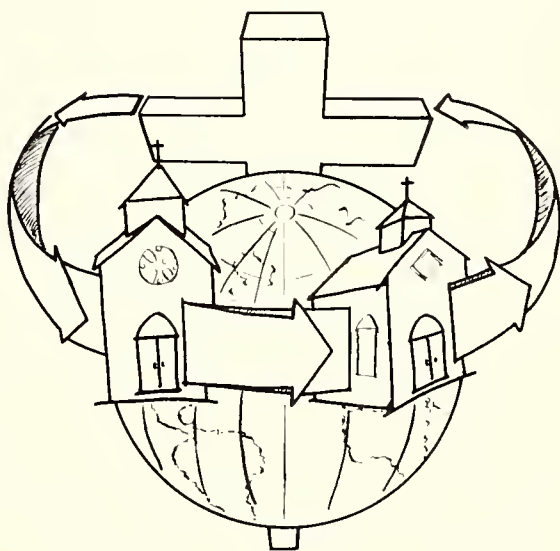
After all, that's exactly what God did by coming to us in a human body in Jesus Christ. He came to us to heal us where we were hurting. It is an excellent example for us to follow.

### Feedback from Manteca

“As a result of the church growth seminar conducted in January by Dr. Fred Burkey, the Manteca church is presently engaged in **praying, thinking, and planning** for growth. We immediately organized a church growth task force which meets weekly. This group, which averages 11-13, is endeavoring to see that the goals we set are being carried out. Recognizing the need to mobilize the entire membership for growth, a questionnaire was prepared to ascertain the needs and desires of our people regarding the program and activities of the church. A number of changes are being considered as a result of this survey. Another need we recognized was that of discovering and identifying our spiritual gifts. It was decided to have the pastor prepare a series of messages on this subject which would be delivered on Sunday morning and discussed on Sunday evening. Meanwhile we are engaged on Wednesday nights with intensive prayer for the unsaved and a series of studies on making our witness more effective.

“We have not yet arrived! But, we **want** to grow! We believe **God** wants us to grow! And we are going to **grow**! Pray for us, will you?”

—William Anderson, pastor



*Send news of growth in your church to Church Growth Forum, in care of Arden E. Gilmer, 530 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.*



## 15 Brethren Attend Men's Congress

**WINONA LAKE (Ind.)**—The 1976 Men's Congress, held April 23-25, drew 71 registrants from among 5 denominations belonging to the Consortium for Evangelical Action, which sponsored the event. This included 15 men from 6 Brethren churches.

Speaker for the gathering was Rev. Wilfred A. Bellamy, former missionary to Nigeria and director of Missionary Internship of Farmington, Mich. He led participants through a detailed study of Colossians 3:1-17, using as his theme "Christ, the Real Life."

This was the fourth Men's Congress and the third in which Brethren men have participated. Churches represented were: Louisville, Ashland Park Street, Gratis, and New Lebanon in Ohio; and Burlington and Warsaw in Indiana.

The purpose of the meetings is to bring together men from several denominations for broader fellowship and inspiration.

Following are some of the comments expressed by Brethren laymen:

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### PLEASANT VIEW MORTGAGE BURNED

**VANDERGRIFT (Pa.)**—Sunday, Apr. 4, was a day of celebration for the Pleasant View Brethren Church here, when the congregation burned the mortgage on its present building.

The speaker for the afternoon service was the Rev. Percy Miller, pastor from 1944 to 1948 and speaker for the dedication of the building on Dec. 31, 1961. He is pastor of the Calvary Brethren Church, Kettering, Ohio.

During the service words of congratulations were given by the Rev. Smith Rose, executive secretary of the Central Council of the Brethren Church; and Rev. Clarence Hesketh, a former member and pastor at Pleasant View and now pastor of the Valley Brethren Church, Jones Mills, Pa.

Special music for the service was provided by Larry Harnish and by the adult choir, under the direction of Nancy McGraw. Mr. Harnish also gave a report of the Expansion Committee on projected plans for expansion. Thelma Fish, church secretary, read greetings from former pastors who were unable to attend.

The church was organized on Aug. 4, 1901, in North Vandergrift. The congregation moved to Pleasant View, Keppel Hill, in May, 1953, using the basement of the present structure for services.

In 1958 work was begun on the upper portion of the building. Dedication was held on Dec. 31, 1961.

Pastor Bill Walk noted that "the Lord has been good to us here at Pleasant View, and we trust Him for continued growth."

"The Men's Congress was a delightful learning experience. I also enjoyed the fellowship of Christian men in singing, eating, praying together, and sharing our thoughts."

—Bill Williams, Louisville

"I was particularly happy with the small discussion groups of Saturday evening."

—Dave Scheurer, Louisville

"Most important to me was the chance to change the routine of my daily life, . . . to spend some time in self-examination and to evaluate my priorities to God, family, and life in general."

—Dick Shimp, New Lebanon

"This was the second Men's Congress that I have had the privilege to attend. Each one was a highlight in my Christian life. . . . It is my sincere prayer that more of our men—both ministers and laymen—will take advantage of next year's Congress."

—Perry Deeter, Dayton

"It was a time . . . to find out that other people do care about us and to take off our masks and share with each other. I am looking forward to the Congress of 1977."

—Glenn McFarland, Louisville

Dates for the 1977 Men's Congress have been set for April 15-17. Location and program will be announced at a later date.

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### BICENTENNIAL COMMUNION CELEBRATED

**SMITHVILLE (Ohio)**—A Bicentennial communion service with the theme of "Our Heritage" was conducted at the Brethren church here on Maundy Thursday, April 15. Attendance was 128.

Individuals were encouraged to wear old fashioned garb and many did.

Customs practiced during the service were: the use of the broth and the breaking of the loaves; passing the bread from one to another; the common cup; and the separation of men and women.

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### Other Update Items:

—People and Events (pp. 17-18)

—Church News (p. 19)

—Bicentennial Conference Briefs (p. 39)

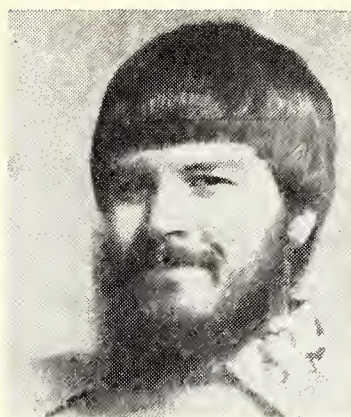




*Joan Holsinger*



*Rebecca Rose*



*Stephen Barber*



*Caroline Mills*

## Brethren Students Graduate from Ashland College by Joan Ronk

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Three Brethren students at Ashland College completed their undergraduate training in May and another will finish in August.

Joan Marlene Holsinger received the Bachelor of Arts degree with majors in psychology and religion. Joan would like to be a counselor.

She has served as secretary and as treasurer of Alpha Theta; was elected a member of Logos, the honorary organization for junior women; and was on the academic honors list six semesters.

Joan is an active member of the Park Street Brethren Church, helping in vacation Bible school and Sisterhood. For three years she was a Summer Crusader, working in camps and Bible schools in many churches of the denomination, in addition to being the treasurer for the national Sisterhood of Mary and Martha.

Joan is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Robert Holsinger of Ashland.

Stephen Barber is the son of the Rev. and Mrs. Carl Barber of Herndon, Virginia. He was conferred the Bachelor of Arts degree with double majors in religion and business.

Steve's summer will be spent in the Smithville (Ohio) Brethren Church, serving as an intern with Pastor Larry Bolinger. In the fall he will enter Ashland Theological Seminary in preparation for Christian ministry in the Brethren Church.

He has been a member of the Ashland College choir for three years and received academic honors three semesters.

He is married to Beth Ellen, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Herbert Gilmer of West Alexandria, Ohio. Beth is employed by the Brethren Publishing Company. Together they have been very active in the Park Street Brethren Church, serving with two other couples in the Junior High Action group. They make their home in Ashland.

Rebecca Rose plans to be an elementary teacher. Her degree is the Bachelor of Science in Education.

Becky is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Rose, who reside in Ashland and are members of the Park Street church.

Becky was elected to Kappa Delta Pi, the educational honorary society. She received academic honors three semesters and graduated Summa Cum Laude.

She has been a student employee in the college admissions office, and, in addition to many other responsibilities, frequently has given prospective students the encouragement to enter Ashland College.

Caroline Mills will receive the Bachelor of Science degree in August. She is in the cooperative nursing program and majored in biology during her three years at Ashland. This year she has been at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, completing her academic work. Next year Caroline will complete her nursing training at Eastern Mennonite and will graduate as an RN from there.

She has several possibilities in using her nursing profession: as a teacher, in frontier nursing, or in public health.

While at Ashland Caroline received academic honors one semester and was a member of Alpha Theta.

She is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. John B. Mills of Hagerstown, Maryland.

### CENTRAL LAYMEN MAKE PAYMENT ON PLEDGE

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The Central District Laymen's Organization made a second contribution in April toward their \$500 pledge to the Brethren Publishing Company. The gift was applied to the cost of new type matrices used for the Brethren Evangelist, the Brethren Quarterly, the Woman's Outlook, and other projects of the print shop.

The recent gift was for \$150. Combined with a gift in December, the men have given \$480.

The type mats were purchased last fall and put into use with the Dec. 13, 1975, issue of the Brethren Evangelist.

John Rowsey, Executive Director of the Brethren Publishing Company, thanked the men for their faithfulness and interest in improving Brethren publications.



NEWSWRITERS' WORKSHOP

ASHLAND (Ohio)—The Brethren Publishing Company will hold a newswriters' workshop during the 1976 General Conference. Purpose of the workshop is to train local church correspondents in more effective ways of using the media for promoting their church and their faith in their community.

Two seminars will be held during the week on gathering and writing news-stories. Assignments to report on events during the week will provide practical experience.

Brochures will be available shortly. Those interested in more information should write to Ron Waters at the Brethren Publishing Company.

Goldenaires

- MR. & MRS. ALBERT HARTMAN, 58th, Mar. 30. Members of the Warsaw (Ind.) church.
- MR. & MRS. CARL KINGERY, 59th, Mar. 15. Members of the Flora (Ind.) church.
- MR. & MRS. FRANK LANTZ, 63rd, Mar. 9. Members of the Flora (Ind.) church.
- MR. & MRS. CHESTER WINGARD, 64th, May 4. Members of the Flora (Ind.) church.

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Date new address in effect \_\_\_\_\_

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Address Correction  
Brethren Publishing Company  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, OH 44805

Membership Growth

Nappanee: 8 by baptism  
Sarasota: 15 by baptism, 4 by letter

Pastoral News

- RICHARD ALLISON, from Jefferson (Goshen, Ind.) as senior pastor to full-time professorship at Ashland Theological Seminary on May 31.
- RICHARD CRAVER, to pastorate of Highland (Marianna, Pa.) in late June while completing seminary education next year.
- CLARENCE KINDLEY, concluding ministry at Corinth (Twelve Mile, Ind.) church on Nov. 1 and available for another pastorate thereafter.
- JACK OXENRIDER, from associate pastor to senior pastor at Jefferson church on June 1.
- RANDALL SMITH, to associate pastor position at Jefferson church on June 15.
- PAUL STEINER, completing ministry of the Lanark (Ill.) church on Aug. 28; plans indefinite.
- GERALD ZOOK, to pastorate at Udell (Iowa) in early June.

In Memory

- HAROLD T. BLACKSTEN, 33, Apr. 1. Member of the Linwood (Md.) church.
- MRS. HARLAND R. CLAPPER, 62, Feb. 28. Deaconess and longtime member of the Trinity Brethren Church, Canton (Ohio). Memorial fund for missions was established in her honor.
- HARLEY FIRESTONE, 91, Apr. 10. Had been the senior member of the South Bend (Ind.) First church and actively engaged in its programs.
- MRS. ANNIE NAOMI FRITZ, 87, Apr. 21. Deaconess and faithful member of the Linwood (Md.) church.
- MRS. EVA HAENES, 80, Mar. 26. A member of the South Bend (Ind.) First church and active in WMS.
- WILLIAM E. McKINSTRY, 95, Mar. 23. Faithful deacon and Sunday school teacher in the Linwood (Md.) church.
- WAYNE SCHAAF, 65, Dec. 30. Member of the Warsaw (Ind.) church. Funeral services by Claude Stogsdill, pastor, and Paul Tinkel.
- FLORENCE SCHLOSSER, 65, Apr. 26. Member of the Bryan (Ohio) church since 1916. Memorial services by Marlin McCann, pastor.

Calendar of Events

- JUNE 6—Dedication of church sanctuary, Warsaw (Ind.) Brethren Church.
- JUNE 10-12—Indiana Conference, Shipshewana.
- JUNE 18-19—Ohio Conference, Camp Bethany.
- JULY 4—Day of Worship and Thanksgiving (NAE Emphasis); Bicentennial Offering Sunday; Peace Sunday.
- JULY 16-17—Central Dist. Conference, Waterloo.
- JULY 22-24—Pennsylvania Conf., Camp Peniel.
- AUGUST 9-13—1976 General Conference, Ashland.



## **BERLIN CELEBRATES 50TH YEAR IN PRESENT BUILDING**

**BERLIN (Pa.)**—Apr. 25 marked the 50th anniversary of use of the present building by the Brethren church here. The two-part celebration included the morning worship service at the church and an afternoon service of reflection and recognition at the local high school.

Reflective meditations were presented by former pastors Lyle Lichtenberger and Percy Miller. Brief talks were also given by six ministers who had been called to the ministry from the congregation: Joseph Shultz, Robert Hoffman, Ronald Ritchey, Ralph Landis, D. C. White, and Charles Wilttrout. Greetings were also brought by Paul Cober, former moderator of the church.

Flowers were presented to the church's four oldest members: Mrs. Henry Manges, 97; and the Rev. D. C. White, Frank Boyer, and Mrs. Mary Werner, all 91. Pastor Ralph Mills also noted that 42 of the members have been affiliated with the church for 50 years or more.

The congregation is now in its 95th year of existence.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS RECEIVES LETTER FROM PRESIDENT**

**BURLINGTON (Ind.)**—W. E. Brewster's fifth and sixth grade boys' Sunday school class received a letter in early April from President Gerald Ford. The response was in reply to a letter the class had sent the President in March.

The class wrote that they had been studying how God had taken care of the Jews in the Old Testament and that He could guide our nation today "if we humble ourselves and pray and seek His guidance." They also indicated their prayer support for him and other leaders of the country.

In response the President said, "There is nothing that means more to me than to know that you are praying for me. . . . I hope I can continue to count on your prayers and your goodwill."

## **DERBY EXPANDS FACILITIES**

**DERBY (Kans.)**—The First Brethren Church here has approved the construction of a new parsonage in order to use the present parsonage for additional Sunday school facilities.

According to George Solomon, pastor of the congregation, "Our Sunday school averaged 82 and 84 in March and April. Our children's classes in the basement have surpassed the saturation level. We have shifted and reorganized classes all that we possibly can—both upstairs and down. We must have more classroom space as soon as possible—or we will stop growing!"

The church hopes to utilize the talents of a number of tradesmen who have recently come into the church and who have agreed to donate their services.

The present parsonage had been used for worship by the congregation before they built their present structure in the early 1960's. They expect it will require very little conversion for use.

## **MT. OLIVET ELECTS DEACONS, ADOPTS CONSTITUTION**

**GEORGETOWN (Del.)**—With a "real desire to grow and reach out," the Mt. Olivet church here took steps in March to organize themselves for more effective ministry, according to Henry Bates, a Pennsylvania District Evangelist.

Due to death or incapacitation, the church had only one member who could function as a deaconess. On Mar. 28, under the direction of Rev. Bates and under the leading of the Holy Spirit, the church elected Kathleen Bryant and Dale Workman to the offices of deaconess and deacon.

The same weekend the congregation considered a proposed constitution which they and their pastor, William McDaniel, had constructed. After much prayer and minor changes, the constitution was adopted.

## **SARASOTA PROFITS FROM MINISTRY OF FATHER, SON**

**SARASOTA (Fla.)**—The first quarter of 1976 found the First Brethren Church here blessed by the ministry of a father/son team.

Dr. Delbert Flora, former dean of Ashland Theological Seminary, served an eight-week tenure as "professor-in-residence" at the church. Studies he conducted included: Sunday evening messages on Biblical personalities; Wednesday morning Bible studies in the Gospel of John; and Wednesday evening messages on the "God Who Acts and Speaks in History."

Dr. Jerry Flora, son of Delbert and professor at the seminary, conducted revival services at the church during the week of Mar. 21. His messages were taken from the book of Hebrews. Over 30 decisions were recorded, including 6 first-time confessions of faith.

## **STOCKTON SHATTERS RECORDS**

**STOCKTON (Calif.)**—The Brethren church here shattered its old Sunday school record on Easter Sunday with 109 in attendance. The sunrise service attracted 62 participants, and 95 attended the morning worship service.

## **TEEGARDEN BUYS LAND, HOUSE**

**WALKERTON (Ind.)**—The Teegarden Brethren Church has approved the purchase of a house and two lots adjoining the church, according to Pastor Jim Gilmer.

The house will serve immediately to provide additional space for Christian education. The land will allow space for future expansion.

## **BRYAN BREAKS LOVE LOAVES**

**BRYAN (Ohio)**—The Brethren church here culminated three months of emphasis on world hunger with the breaking of their "Love Loaves" in mid-April. More than \$700 was given, and 70 additional loaves, supplied by World Vision, International, were distributed for use during the next three months.



# MINISTERIAL

*Helping men and women*



## **Seminary students comment:**

"Without Ministerial Student Aid, many of us in seminary would not be able to continue our studies."

"This aid has helped me reduce my outside workload so that I can spend more time studying."

"Ministerial Student Aid has been an answer to prayer. It has meant that we can live on my part-time salary, and my wife can be at home with the children."

## **College students**

"Ministerial Student Aid is a blessing from God! It provides college tuition help for those who give this money to the Lord so they can serve the Lord."

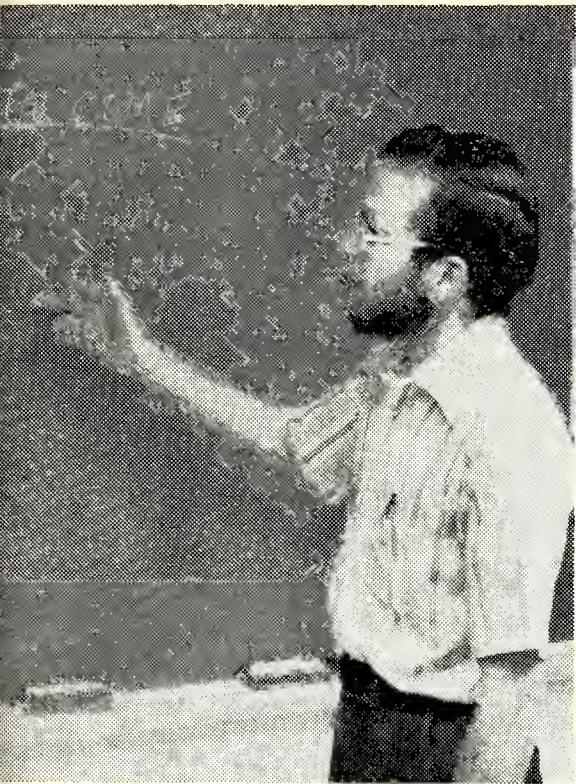
"Because of Ministerial Student Aid, I was able to attend Ashland College seminary and His work was blessed. It is a great thing when people give money to the Lord. I have seven years of schooling and I can serve any family."

**Support the Ministerial Student Aid Fund—send your contribution**



# STUDENT AID

*prepare for the ministry.*



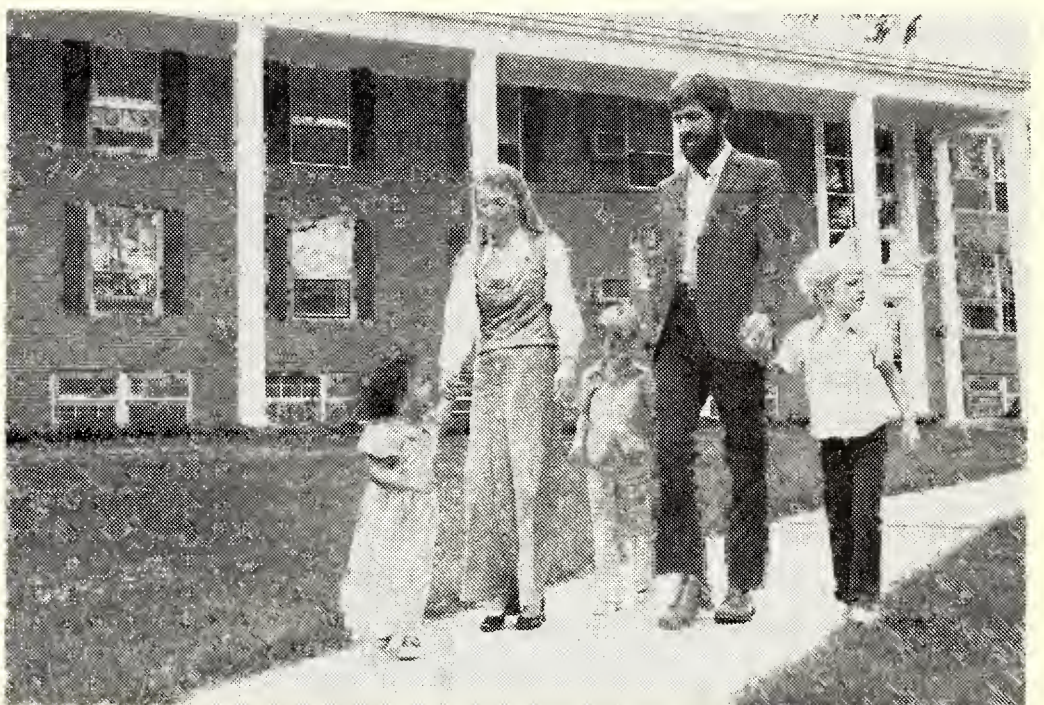
Photos by Bruce Ronk and Dale Engle

*Far left, Dr. Richard Allison and Bob Clough prepare for chapel. Center, Dr. Jerry Flora and Bruce Ronk discuss a theological model. Above, Randy Best completes research for his thesis. Below, the Don Snell family starts for worship.*

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: **Rev. Bradley Weidenhamer, 631 Buena Vista, Ashland, Ohio 44805.**



# world relief

*Reflections from my recent tour*

## WRC in India

*by Phil Lersch*

Calcutta was built by the British to accommodate 3 million people. But 9 million people live in that city now, presenting many of the problems of overcrowding.

Some Christian men of India that make up SEVA (Social Economic Vocational Assistance—described last month as the WRC counterpart agency in India) realized that there were educated people on the crowded streets of Calcutta that just couldn't get employment.

They did something to help. They offered financial assistance to programs that are training young people for vocational employment, thereby providing a means for them to support themselves rather than be dependent upon other sources. This training and resulting employment also helps keep families together and better fed and clothed.

Here are samples of what our Brethren money is helping to accomplish—through WRC and through SEVA—for those anxious to learn new trades in India.

### Kiosks

A kiosk is a booth where passersby can buy tea, ice cream, cokes, snacks, and so forth. SEVA has established three kiosks to date, two of which

are functioning. They want to take the third and place it in a school location, making it a part of the training for a commerce class.

SEVA advanced \$2,000 and some cookware to get the kiosks started. Five boys are employed full time, and others work part time. They are educated but were unemployed; now they are productive.

Other values of the kiosks are that they provide hygienic food for the citizens (which is not always available on the streets of Calcutta), and they add beauty and color to the city (booths have red and white stripes).

SEVA officials are now considering the most effective means of establishing a Christian witness at the kiosks—either by tracts or other means.

A government official told SEVA that they had introduced a practical idea to help young people help themselves, something that others in Calcutta had only talked about.

### Girls' college

SEVA provides tuition assistance for many of the 25 girls enrolled in the commercial section of this school we visited one evening. And WRC

*(continued on page 32)*

Photos by Phil Lersch



*One of the kiosks in Calcutta.*



*Members of the sewing school.*



## Adapt for Physical Disability

### Sewing to fit the needs of the handicapped.

Wheelchairs, braces, and crutches are a daily fact of life for many. Add stiff fingers, temporary disabilities, or convalescences, and clothing can challenge many more. Here are some guidelines to make being dressed a more rewarding and comfortable experience for the disabled. And, needless to say, these pointers are applicable to any wardrobe where comfort and service are required.

**ATTRACTIVENESS:** Learn to use color and design to highlight your positive points; disguise features you don't want to show.

Bright color attracts the eye and calls attention to the area where it is used. Want to call attention to your face? A vivid necktie for a man or an insert of bright color for a woman is a great way.

When patterned and plain fabrics are used in combination, the eye goes first to the pattern. Learn to place it to call attention to your good points.

Raised or lowered waistlines allow for fullness where needed to conceal body irregularities or back braces. An unfitted dress, or one with extra fullness in front and back yoke areas, also serves this function very well.

Pantsuits and long skirts take attention away from legs.

Boxy jackets, bulky sweaters, and overblouses all can hide irregularities of torso and arms.

**COMFORT:** You can look good in your clothes and still be uncomfortable. Here are tips to make moving about easier.

Two-piece outfits give best fit and function.

Knit or stretch fabrics offer the most ease.

Select raglan or kimono sleeves for shoulder and underarm comfort, or make a gusset under the arm of all garments for extra room.

A loose, elastic waistline keeps dresses, overblouses, pants, or skirts in place comfortably.

Be sure that necklines and cuffs are large enough for easy movement of entire body. If garment pulls up for person walking with crutches, make short sleeves out of long sleeves (three-quarter length or cuffless long sleeves also help) and insert 4x6-inch gusset after taking out both underarm seams.

If fabric causes irritation from rubbing, reinforce trouble areas with soft, absorbent fabric next to the skin. Velour, soft-cut stretch terry-cloth, or several layers of soft cotton flannel



work well. Make garments of blended fabrics rather than all manmade fibers, such as polyester or nylon, which are nonabsorbent and therefore less comfortable to wear.

Pants constructed for wheelchair use should be shaped differently than regular slacks. To achieve improved fit, take measurements while person is sitting. This allows plenty of fabric in the back, less in the lap. The back waistband will actually angle up considerably from the side seams, and the front waistband will be set lower than on regular pants. This principle applies to skirts for wheelchair use, too.

**CONVENIENCE:** Features can be added to clothing to make them easier to get on, get off, and wear.

Sew cuff buttons on with elastic thread so that the hand can slide through without unbuttoning and buttoning.

Open side seams of pants and install pressure tape or long zippers.

Pull-over garments with no closures eliminate fumbling with fastenings. Also, wrap-around garments are easy for most people to fasten. Large buttons and buttonholes, and snaps or pressure tape closings, simplify dressing when style or convenience demands using some type of secure closure. Front zippers, with chunky pull-tabs added, often solve dressing problems, too.

For lingerie, change the regular slip or nightgown to meet special dressing needs by adding a long front zipper. For bras, sew up back closure. Sew purchased closure or zipper into front. For extra support use pressure tape strip.

Add patch pockets to garments to carry things when moving around.

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## Bicentennial Charter for Older Americans



Two hundred years ago, a new nation was founded based on the self-evident truths that all men—and women—are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights. A Constitution was set forth for governance of these new United States of America with the goal of forming a more perfect union, establishing justice, insuring domestic tranquility, providing for the common defense, promoting the general welfare, and securing the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

In the two hundredth year of this nation's existence, it is good and well that we call special attention to a group of citizens which literally did not exist at the time of our Revolution. The approximate life span in 1776 was 32 years. In 1976, it is projected to be 71 years, and we now have a virtual "generation" of older Americans whose roles, contributions, rights, and responsibilities need to be given particular attention at this time in our history.

Americans of all ages have the ultimate responsibility to be or become self-reliant, to care for their families, to aid their neighbors, and to plan prudently for their old age. Older persons have the responsibility to make available to the community the benefits of their experience and knowledge. Society—be it through the institutions of the public or the private sector—has the responsibility to assist citizens to be prepared for their later years, as well as to assist directly so many of the very old who for one reason or another cannot cope with the burden of increasing physical, mental, social, and environmental debilities.

There follow certain basic human rights for older Americans based on the "laws of nature and of nature's God" as set forth in the founding documents of this nation some two hundred years ago.

*I. The Right to Freedom, Independence, and the Free Exercise of Individual Initiative.*

This should encompass not only opportunities and resources for personal planning and managing one's lifestyle but support systems for maximum growth and contributions by older persons to their community.

*II. The Right to an Income in Retirement Which Would Provide an Adequate Standard of Living.*

Such income must be sufficiently adequate to assure maintenance of mental and physical activities which delay deterioration and maximize individual potential for self-help and support. This right should be assured regardless of employment capability.



III. *The Right to an Opportunity for Employment Free from Discriminatory Practices Because of Age.*

Such employment when desired should not exploit individuals because of age and should permit utilization of talents, skills, and experience of older persons for the good of self and community. Compensation should be based on the prevailing wage scales of the community for comparable work.

IV. *The Right to an Opportunity to Participate in the Widest Range of Meaningful Civic, Educational, Recreational, and Cultural Activities.*

The varying interests and needs of older Americans require programs and activities sensitive to their rich and diverse heritage. There should be opportunities for involvement with persons of all ages in programs which are affordable and accessible.

V. *The Right to Suitable Housing.*

The widest choices of living arrangements should be available, designed and located with reference to special needs at costs which older persons can afford.

VI. *The Right to the Best Level of Physical and Mental Health Services Needed.*

Such services should include the latest knowledge and techniques science can make available without regard to economic status.

VII. *The Right to Ready Access to Effective Social Services.*

These services should enhance independence and well-being, yet provide protection and care as needed.

VIII. *The Right to Appropriate Institutional Care When Required.*

Care should provide full restorative services in a safe environment. This care should also promote and protect the dignity and rights of the individual along with family and community ties.

IX. *The Right to a Life and Death With Dignity.*

Regardless of age, society must assure individual citizens of the protection of their constitutional rights and opportunities for self respect, respect and acceptance from others, a sense of enrichment and contribution, and freedom from dependency. Dignity in dying includes the right of the individual to permit or deny the use of extraordinary life support systems.

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We pledge the resources of this nation to the ensuring of these rights for all older Americans regardless of race, color, creed, age, sex, or national origin, with the caution that the complexities of our society be monitored to assure that the fulfillment of one right does not nullify the benefits received as the result of another entitlement. We further dedicate the technology and human skill of this nation so that later life will be marked in liberty with the realization of the pursuit of happiness.

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*The Senior Citizens Charter was developed by the 1961 White House Conference on Aging and revised in 1976 by the Federal Council on the Aging at the request of the Commissioner on Aging.*





## Association of Church Missions Committees

Nearly three billion people have not had reasonable opportunity to become Christians. Now there is a group that can help the local church respond to this challenge.

The Association of Church Missions Committees (ACMC) is an organization of local churches (both denominational and independent) dedicated to strengthening the role of the church in world evangelization.

The association was created by lay representatives who realized that **the key to success of the Great Commission task lies in the local church.** ACMC serves as a coordinating and servicing agency set apart to assist church missions committees in fulfilling their responsibilities.

The ACMC operates through a regional structure which is responsible for promotion of the association and the ACMC functions held in that region. These functions include one-day area seminars and regular conferences.

It is the only such organization in the United States of which **local churches** can become members. Interaction between missions-minded pastors and laymen continually proves to be the single most significant contribution of the Association.

Three membership categories are available:

**Full Membership** for local churches; dues (ranging from \$10 to \$100) paid annually based on yearly church missions budget

**Supporting Membership** for organizations other than local churches who are sympathetic with its function; no dues, no voting rights

**Associate Membership** for individuals not representing churches; dues are \$25 per year.

ACMC is uniquely able to strengthen and encourage the whole spectrum of evangelicals who are concerned with soul-saving, church-planting, Great Commission missions. ACMC's major concern is to motivate churches to help other churches in taking the whole Gospel to the whole world.

The second ACMC National Conference will be held July 29 through August 1, 1976, on the campus of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill. The role of the local church in world evangelization will be discussed by church/missions spokesmen including Nigel Kerr, Dean of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Peter Wagner, Fuller Theological Seminary School of World Missions; and Dr. H. Wilbert Norton, Dean of the Graduate School, Wheaton College.

Central to the conference content will be the presentation of a paper entitled "Directing Your Church's Involvement in Missions: A Basic Philosophy." This paper, coupled with 15 carefully selected workshops on key church missions issues, will provide a needed balance between the **in principle** and **in practice** involvement of the local church in world evangelization.

Non members can attend the workshop, but membership allows a conference discount. You can get immediate details from the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church, or by writing to:

ACMC

1021 E. Walnut St., Suite 202  
Pasadena, CA 91106

Conference participants will also have significant opportunities to interact with other missions-minded pastors and laymen through the workshops, caucuses, and informal gatherings planned for the weekend. And for the second year it will be ACMC's pleasure to have students from the Summer Institute for International Studies, an accredited program designed to give students specialized training in missiology and related fields, as co-participants in the conference.

Ed Dayton, writing in the September 1975 issue of the MARC Newsletter, said:

"It is not difficult to believe that three years from now the Association of Church Missions Committees will be made up of over 1,000 local churches from over 50 denominations, representing \$100 million dollars of combined local mission budgets (one-quarter of the total North American giving). Based on the high interest of those involved to date, it is also easy to picture that more than 50 percent of these member churches would take giant steps forward in their understanding of the total world and their conception of how North American churches should relate to the rest of the world. This could be one of the greatest movements in the history of the United States and Canada: **churchmen from all denominations coming together to talk about the task of the church.**"



# India's Brethren Christian Convention

*Under the leadership of Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar, the Brethren General Convention was held in Weavers Colony, Rajahmundry, from Jan. 30 through Feb. 1, 1976. People from many places in Andhra State attended. The following is a brief narration of the event.*

## Friday, Jan. 30

The meetings began on Friday morning with a meditation service by Pastor B. B. Israel of Velagathodu. One very special event of the convention was the round-the-clock prayer, which was begun that morning by Rev. T. Rajarao and was continued for the full three days. It was very supportive and enabled the meetings to be successful.

A gospel meeting was another feature on Friday morning, and two pastors spoke. Pastor K.

Agamana Rao, traveling evangelist of the Brethren Mission, emphasized the power of prayer, basing his message on the life of Jonah. Rev. V. Samuel, Brethren Mission pastor of the Visakhapatnam church, chose redemption of sin as his theme.

On Friday afternoon a special youth program was held, led by Bishop D. Joseph, brother-in-law of the Kumar brothers. Rev. K. Vijaya Kumar spoke on the life of youth and their importance for the growth of the church. The Brethren Children's Home boys narrated the life of Christ in drama at the conclusion of the program.

Two speakers shared in the revival meeting held Friday evening. One of them was Professor Ch. Francis, who spoke on eternal life. The second speaker was Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar; he spoke on dedication and giving to the Lord, urging people to support the Lord's work.

## Saturday, Jan. 31

The Saturday morning meditation service (which began at 5:00 a.m.) was led by Pastor A. Prasadarao of Palacherla. The first speaker at the 9:00 gospel service was Professor Ch. Francis. He spoke on knowing the Lord and concluded by saying it is a blessing to know Him in life. The second speaker, Pastor P. L. Paramjyothi, vice president of the Pentecostal Church, emphasized that love was deep, strong, eternal, and sacred, belonging to the Lord.

A program for women was held on Saturday, with Mrs. K. Nirmala Prasantha Kumar presiding. Dr. B. V. Subbamma, director of Christian Ashrams in India, inspired the women to be like the Samaritan woman, and a drama on this subject was enacted. Mrs. Prasantha Kumar urged the women to live by faith in the Lord.

In the evening revival meeting, Rev. K. Vijaya Kumar spoke on repentance and narrated the story of the Prodigal Son; then Pastor P. L. Paramjyothi inspired his audience to bring the people in darkness to the Lord, as did the little girl who witnessed to Naaman.

## Sunday, Feb. 1

On Sunday the meditation service was led by Pastor G. Krupanandam of Ethakota; this was followed by Sunday School. The speaker for the worship service was the manager of the Christian Literature Center, Rev. Dasbabu, who spoke on Peter and the problems that prevailed in the early church and in the church of today. Also during this service, Rev. K. Prasantha Kumar had a

*(continued on page 29)*



*Above is the temporary shelter used for the Brethren Convention in India.*



*Dr. B. V. Subbamma, director of Christian Ashrams, gave a musical performance with her team during the women's meeting.*



# Call for Wayne Heights

The year 1976 marks the silver anniversary of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church. It was in May of 1951 that a group of Brethren who had been meeting informally for some time were officially recognized by the Pennsylvania District as an organized congregation of the Brethren Church. Six months later, on November 18, 1951, a ground-breaking ceremony was held at 120 Strickler Ave. for a church sanctuary, and in the spring of the next year that new sanctuary was dedicated and put to use as a place of worship and Christian education. Christian folks throughout the brotherhood helped to make this building possible, for the Wayne Heights church was the second recipient of the then new Ten Dollar Club. Within a relatively short time the congregation had paid off loans to local banks and before long became a fully self-sustaining congregation.



*Wayne Heights church before the new addition.*

## GROWTH PARTNERS CLUB

The 39th call for church extension was sent out earlier this year for the Wayne Heights Brethren Church of Waynesboro, Pa. This church will be the first recipient under the new name, Growth Partners Club.

The Missionary Board remains grateful for the fine response through the years to the previous Ten Dollar Club.

Under the new club, you have opportunity to be: a Growth Partner, extending \$10.00 per call; a Door Keeper, forwarding \$25.00 per call; or a Faith Builder, contributing \$50.00 per call.

We are pleased for all the responses from people who want to be Door Keepers, having increased their contributions from \$10.00 to \$25.00 or more, and thus assisting with the forward thrust for growth in the Brethren Church.

In an effort to keep construction costs to a minimum the building which was constructed in 1951-52 did not include any "extras," such as Sunday school rooms or other facilities. Consequently, there has been a real need for such facilities. At the present time all of the children's classes (kindergarten through sixth grade) gather in the church basement with only monks-cloth curtains separating one class from another. Of course, students are able to hear several teachers at one time. The youth department classes now meet in the parsonage basement where several temporary partitions have been set up to afford a little privacy for each class. The post-grads class has been meeting for the past several years in the pastor's study, and the two adult classes meet in the church sanctuary.

Over the years the need for a Sunday school annex has been felt, and several sets of plans have been suggested. But, due to a variety of reasons, nothing tangible has ever come forth. In the fall of 1975 the present pastor, Rev. Henry Bates, suggested to a business meeting of the congregation that a committee be appointed to get estimates on a building which had been sketched. Such a committee was appointed, several construction firms were contacted, and reports were brought back to the congregation. The committee was then instructed to proceed to have plans prepared for the building and to submit such plans for actual bidding. These steps were taken, and on September 14, 1975, the congregation voted to accept one of the bids and to proceed with the actual construction of the proposed new building. On Sunday morning, October 26th, ground was broken for this long-awaited educational annex.

The total cost of the building, including furnishings, landscaping, black-topping of the adjoining parking lot, sidewalks, and carpeting, will be approximately \$59,000. Of this amount the Wayne Heights Brethren have already given a little over \$27,000. One of the decisions which finally convinced the Brethren here that this was the time to build was the decision of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church to name the Wayne Heights Brethren Church the recipient of the January to June (1976) Growth Partners Club Call. One of the local banks has approved a loan for whatever other funds the church will need to finance the building of this much-needed annex.

The new building, which will match the present sanctuary, will contain eleven Sunday School rooms, rest rooms, and a large entrance foyer from which pupils will be able to enter the new building, the existing sanctuary, or the present basement assembly room. The building will be extremely well insulated throughout; will feature electric heat; will be as near fire-proof as it is possible for a building to be; and will feature bright, attractive interiors.

On behalf of the congregation at Wayne Heights we express our heartfelt gratitude to all of the contributors to the Growth Partners Club for making this long-needed building possible.



## Partners

In Paul's letters to the New Testament churches, he refers to "partners in the gospel." The Brethren House staff has always recognized the fact that this mission depends on teamwork. But every so often we are reminded again of how large our team is, how many "partners in the gospel" there are throughout the denomination, the country, and even the world.

We received visitors recently who are truly partners with us in this ministry of finding effective means of proclaiming and communicating the love of Christ. Dick and Rose Lewis from Tiosa, Ind., stopped in on Sunday morning to share worship with us. Learning of the purchase of the new house to expand our facilities, they volunteered to come back one day and help with the painting. Mr. Lewis is a professional painter and house remodeler, so we were ecstatic to hear his offer. We discovered the day they came that Mrs. Lewis is also a pro, always ready with the brush at the right place at the right time with no muss or fuss.

These two dedicated partners were ready at 8:00 a.m. that Thursday clad in painting garb and equipped with long-handled rollers, paint pans, and all of the other necessary paraphernalia (including the expertise). They worked until 8:00 p.m., finishing ceilings for nearly the whole house and walls for two rooms.

Besides the expert work they donated, their sweet spirit in Christian fellowship added real enjoyment to the day. And a special bonus was Dick's journal which he shared. What enjoyable reading! To share it is to travel along with this couple on their jaunts around the country in their lovely home-made converted bus mobile home. We are truly grateful to this dedicated couple for their encouragement, their work, and their lives.

Other partners came that same evening. Some of the young people from a Bible study group Bonnie is involved with came to help paint her bedroom and closet. More have promised to come later. These folks are not Brethren, but because of their friendship with Bonnie cemented by their commitment to Christ, they too want to help us prepare this new place of ministry.

Others of you have been our partners throughout the nine years of our mission here. You have helped in so many ways—with interest, encouragement, offerings, and prayers. We are truly thankful to be members of this partnership that is superior to any corporation. All of you who have helped have received your instructions from the head of the partnership, the Holy Spirit. He who knows God's will from beginning to end is the Director. We who love Christ are the followers, trying to ascertain our instructions. Like

the rest of the team, the "partners in the gospel," we are amazed at the ways He, the Director, works things together for good.

—Jean Lersch

P.S. Not satisfied to leave the house unfinished, the Lewises returned another whole day to finish the painting. They invested another whole day of their vacation with us to be sure all of the walls were done. We are so thankful! The paint looks beautiful. Thank you, Lord, for these dedicated partners.



*New house purchased in St. Petersburg to expand the Brethren House ministries.*

## India's Brethren Convention

(continued from page 27)

dedication of babies, distributed many Bibles to village brethren, and presented certificates, Bibles, and wristwatches to the graduates of the Bible institute. After the worship, a baptismal service was conducted, and 34 people who had accepted the Lord were baptized by Prasantha and Vijaya Kumar.

The afternoon meeting was a laudatory service with Professor Francis speaking on the grace of Christ and Rev. Dasbabu on the love of the Lord. Rev. Dasbabu also spoke at the evening service, the last of the convention. He described the fig tree that did not bear fruit, and he urged the people to be fruitful. Finally, Bishop K. Vijayaratham, father of the Kumars, gave an inspirational message on the importance of being in the Lord and of church attendance.

More than 2,000 people attended this series of meetings. They were provided with food and shelter, but especially with spiritual food.



## Psychology and Peace

(continued from page 13)

for killing people and destroying property.

Still another mechanism is the dehumanization which passive obedience produces. The highest patriotism or loyalty for them is blind acceptance rather than aggressive involvement in vigorous debate, constructive criticism, or legislative reform. Such responses create a self-image devoid of the qualities of courage, power, autonomy, confidence, and responsibility which are usually identified with a healthy self-image. We need to

remember that many people came to this country for the purpose of escaping military conscription, economic deprivation, and social estrangement. Among some Christians this dehumanization process may even contribute today to a denial of responsibility for current efforts toward peace.

Too often the negative nature of man has been emphasized to the neglect of the positive potential achieved in him through the redemptive activity of God. The human potential actualized through justification by faith, the regeneration of man by the power of the Holy Spirit, the incarnational involvements of God—these are our resources for peace. Indeed, they are our peace!

## Chapter 4

# Economics and Peace

by Otto Bremer

Summary by Keith Bennett.

Economic activities and existing economic conditions do, of course, have a strong influence on whether war or peace is going to prevail in our world.

For example, the basic economic reality which influences the possibility of war or peace is the hard fact that 20 percent of the world's population has 80 percent of the world's wealth.

Several wars of past history find their cause in a nation's desire to increase or defend its share of the world's wealth. In contrast to this is the great resource for peace that efforts toward a more just distribution of the world's resources and wealth would produce.

The majority of people are ignorant of the extent that the world of business and economics play as a cause of war or a resource for peace. Most people think only in political terms when considering war and peace.

But how about the church and its relation to the world of economics? If we seek a historical perspective in the relationship between the church and economic life it becomes clear that at one time religion—more specifically Christianity in the 12th through the 17th centuries—dominated the whole of life, including the economic sphere.

Much has changed since the "Lord's Spiritual" could dominate the world of economics, but the mere chance of that ever again happening evokes a strong reaction in our midst.

Both constitution and folk lore have decreed a separation of powers and institutions. The expression, "business is business," and the widespread insistence that the church should concern themselves only with "spiritual" matters represent a popular approval and articulation of the separation.

If theologians and ethicists are ever to dialogue with economists and businessmen on how these activities influence development toward war and peace, they must first discover some way to break through the traditional assumption of the "business is business" philosophy.

We appeal to America for sharing its economic wealth with the less fortunate, but we don't inquire at all about the justice of America having such abundance in the first place.

Of the 2.5 billion people who live in the world, 60 percent are malnourished and 20 percent are starving. Can we grasp such staggering numbers—500 million persons—starving? Dr. John Bennett has pointed to the irony that the majority of the population in the wealthier countries are Christians, or at least nominal followers of Jesus Christ.

The Christian commitment must rather be to the hard work of developing and implementing a just economic strategy in the global context.

Before the conclusion is drawn that increased international trade is totally a source for peace, it is well to remember that commercial relationships between developed and developing nations have always been to the advantage of the developed countries. When the rich nations needed raw materials, they extracted them from the poorer nations. When industrial changes and new synthetics reduced the need for raw materials, the developing countries were abandoned until higher labor costs and unionization at home sent the corporations back seeking cheap labor.

In economic terms it may be that the rich in the United States and the rich in overseas countries do get richer, but the poor do not benefit. The realization of this fact may well have influenced the internal class struggle which contributed to the Vietnam war.

A task force studying mission on six continents concluded that if the American people knew the detrimental effects of overseas investment, they would object.

The issue here is not whether as a nation we should have an adequate defense capacity—I believe that we must. The issue, rather, is whether economic considerations should be allowed to function as a potential cause of war, whether the needs of the economy should rank so high that

(continued on next page)



## Economics and Peace

(continued from page 30)

war itself is considered "justified" if it contributes to economic stability and health.

If, however, we are able to accept a vision of brotherhood and cooperation and are willing to

start where we are and to work hard and without let up—then it is possible to make economic cooperation a valid resource for peace.

There must be a long-range and hard-nosed commitment to the excruciatingly difficult task of devising and implementing a just economic strategy as a resource for peace in the global context!

## Chapter 5

### *Politics and Peace*

*by Ralph Moellering*

## Chapter 6

### *On Not Leaving It to the Pacifists*

*by Charles P. Lutz*

Summary and commentary by John Brownsberger.

Many issues and questions are raised in these two chapters which need to be dealt with by the Brethren Church as she struggles with the issue of pacifism in her history. Unfortunately many of us have not even begun thinking about these issues and questions, let alone talking about them in order to reach some meaningful position. The value of this book and these two chapters for us right now could be simply that it forces us to ask some searching questions. For example, Charles Lutz asks, "Is violence ever legitimate? Under what circumstances? If it's not legitimate in terms of war between nations, is it legitimate in revolutionary settings—within a community of people?"

During our Bicentennial celebration as a nation, are not these also some questions which we need to ask ourselves and answer for our children and their future, as well as for our past? We are living in a day when many people, especially our youth and young adults, are questioning the whole issue of warfare, even the "just war" ethic, and its adequacy for settling disputes between nations. Many other American Christians who formerly tended to idolize their government now feel undermined as a result of the Vietnam and Watergate traumas. In the light of these two attitudes we must allow ourselves to reassess our positions and struggle with the serious questions being raised in the area of peace.

In Chapter 6, John Howard Yoder's book, *The Politics of Jesus*, is recommended by Lutz as one that can stimulate our thinking and broaden our understanding of the questions being raised in the pacifist position and of the whole social message of the New Testament. A strong case is made that Jesus' ethic for himself and His followers was nonresisting love, following the path of suffering servanthood, being vulnerable and open to

risks, and seeking to create a new humanity by way of the cross. At the cross of Christ our enemies are united to us in such a way that forbids our ever taking their lives (Matthew 6:43-48 and Ephesians 2:11-22; see book, p. 72).

The debate centers on whether the nonresisting, suffering love stance is appropriate only for individual Christians or if it can be applied to governments or bodies of citizens. How we answer this question will depend a great deal upon whether we view Jesus' personal lifestyle of nonresistance as a model for everyone to follow or one which He personally had to follow in order to be the "Lamb of God" taking away the sins of the world. It also depends upon how we see the rest of the New Testament dealing with the issue of nonresistant, suffering love. Lutz does not deal with all of the above and thus weakens his presentation.

I personally think that some new ways of looking at the book of the Revelation of Saint John may be especially helpful in answering these questions. See G. B. Caird's book, *The Revelation of St. John the Divine*, Harper New Testament Commentaries for Pastors. (Unfortunately, at least to my knowledge, nothing comparable has been written for the layman.) Caird gives a very interesting view from the book of Revelation of how God continues to conquer by nonresisting, suffering love.

Another area of debate dealt with in this book is the issue of "unity and diversity" within the Bible. Could this be one of the reasons we Brethren have so much diversity of opinion in the areas of baptism, nonresistance, and other controversial issues we are struggling with today? Maybe our problem is not just a matter of interpreting the Bible differently from each other; maybe it is

*(continued on next page)*



## Politics and Peace

(continued from page 31)

also because of diversity found within the pages of the Bible itself. (For how this applies to the issue of nonresistance, see pp. 53-55 and pp. 71-73, and for a more detailed study of the issue see Roland Bainton's book, **Christian Attitudes to War and Peace**, for a historical development of the positions of pacifism, the "just war" theory, and the Crusades, all as based on the Bible.)

In the chapter on "Politics and Peace," Ralph Moellering emphasizes a number of political factors which contribute to warmaking, one of which is the officeholder's great need for the security of reelection. He suggests that both Congress and the President can and have become involved in wars which were not necessary in the first place or did not serve the best interests of our nation. Some wars, he says, were promoted only for political expediency. He cites the Mexican war of the 1840's and the very controversial Vietnam war as examples (pp. 57-60). He raises some very disturbing points of history to suggest that the "demonic" can work in democratic societies as well as in tyrannies.

Moellering has an excellent discussion on the various options open to the United States concerning foreign policy, presenting four positions and evaluating each of them (pp. 61-65). He concludes by saying "while perfect justice must await the advent of the kingdom of God in its final fruition, there are remedial measures which can be introduced as a deliberately planned movement toward justice evolves. Conflicting concepts about

what constitutes justice can be resolved. Disputes between nations can be settled by political means rather than sheer force" (pp. 65-66). He quotes William Lazareth as saying that "God wills both peace and justice for our political life together and we must therefore find ways and means of resisting ruthless tyranny and avoiding the horrors of total nuclear war," yet never anticipating perfect solutions or believing in the possibility of "Christianizing" politics (pp. 54-55). In reality, he says, what we need is peace more than we need pacifism (p. 73). He believes both Christian and non-Christian today can be involved in such a common goal.

Our task, Moellering says, is not to agree on a common view of war and peace or the Vietnam war or amnesty in order to work together for peace. Rather we need to get the message across at the very core of the churches' life that peace-building is the job of every Christian. He concludes by quoting U Thant, former secretary-general of the United Nations: "I do not wish to seem overdramatic, but I can only conclude from the information available to me as Secretary General that the members of the United Nations have perhaps 10 years left in which to subordinate their ancient quarrels and launch a global partnership to curb the arms race, to improve the human environment, to defuse the population explosion, and to supply the required momentum to world development efforts."

Can the seemingly impossible become possible? For the sake of our children, our youth, and our future, I hope we will at least struggle with the question.

## WRC in India

(continued from page 22)

(through SEVA) gave a large cabinet and some money for books to start their library.

These girls, in their late teens or early 20's, are working during the day. Seven are teaching in an Assembly of God school we visited. The evening school is training them in additional skills.

## Printing apprenticeship

At the Assembly of God high school, there is also vocational training for academic dropouts. Ron Shaw, the principal, is president of SEVA.

SEVA is providing daily tuition for some students to learn the trade of printing in a three-year program. At the time we were in India, they had carried 10 apprentices. Of course, all the school's printing is done in this shop.

## Sewing school

About 30 girls are receiving sewing instruction in the very small quarters of this "school." Students come and go between 1:00 and 5:00 because there is not enough room in the available space for them all to be there at one time.

We saw the sewing machines donated by WRC (through SEVA). And the displays of their past work they had hung up especially for us to see were beautiful.

One story related to us spoke to the concern of our group that some form of Christian witness be expressed through the projects as they are established. When the first sewing machine was donated to the sewing project of the school, the president declared to those in attendance that the men of SEVA represent a large body of Christians, and that the machine was given out of our concern for them. This is significant, for several of the girls are from other religious beliefs or have no belief.

## Thoughts about giving

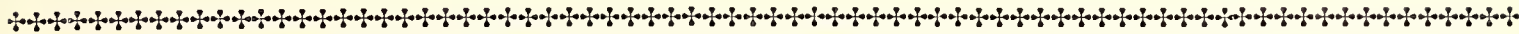
Of special interest was this comment by Arun Sircar, secretary of SEVA and an attorney, during the dinner we had with them. In talking about the support coming from WRC, he stated that the **best giving** is "not giving because you yourself have enough, but because you share whatever you have. That makes the giving more fruitful to both giver and receiver." He feels that this is the kind of giving Americans are involved in. **Let's do what we can to make sure Mr. Sircar is correct.**



# auxiliary programs for july

- 33 Laymen's Inspirational
- 34 Signal Lights Program
- 35 SMM Gen. Secretary's Notes
- 36 Junior SMM Program

*We regret that the Senior Sisterhood program material was not received in time for publication.*



## laymen

*written by  
J. Perry Deeter*

### Living Water

You will recall that last month I wrote about the importance and many uses of water. The Bible speaks about many different aspects of water. It tells of the waters of creation in Genesis 1:2, 6, and 9. We read about how the earth was destroyed by the great flood in Genesis 6 and 7. Then there are the miracles involving water, such as the turning of water into wine, and Jesus' walking on the water. Also, we might think of the waters of baptism. However, I want to focus on the "living water" which we read about in the fourth chapter of John.

Here we have the account of how Jesus stopped to rest at Jacob's well while on his way through Samaria. A Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well, and Jesus asked her for a drink. This surprised the woman because here was a Jew asking a "despised Samaritan" for a drink of water. So she asked Jesus, "How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me?"

Jesus, seeking to awaken within the woman a sense of need, and also to quicken her interest, told her of a better gift than what He had asked of her, a gift which He would have been willing to bestow upon her had she desired it. It was the gift of "living water" (v. 10). The woman was surprised that He was able to produce the flowing waters of a stream (for so she interprets His gift of "living water"), especially since Jacob had failed (vv. 11, 12). The sense of mystery which Jesus had introduced in His reference to living water led Him to the truth which He communicated in His claim to satisfy man's thirst forever. The water of Jacob's well could satisfy thirst only for a little while (v. 13), but He could give the gift of eternal life springing up in the soul and fully satisfying man's inner thirst (v. 14).

In John, chapter 7, verses 37 and 38, the "living water" is mentioned again. Here Jesus said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." Here He was speaking of the Holy Spirit, Who would be given to all who believe in Him. The glorification of Jesus would result in an outpouring of the Spirit (v. 39).

Isn't it wonderful to be able to drink of this "living water"? Just as earthly water is necessary to sustain our physical lives in this world, the "living water" is necessary for eternal life. Water is very easy for us to obtain—so easy that we take it pretty much for granted. Likewise, the gift of "living water" (eternal life) is easy for us to obtain. We cannot just take this gift for granted, as we do water. We must ask for it by asking Christ to come into our lives, and then committing our lives to Him. After we have done this, the Holy Spirit dwells within us, and we "thirst no more."

**For thought and/or discussion:** You have heard of people, I am sure, who are continually searching for something to satisfy their desires and make them happy. It may be money, fame, popularity, or any number of other things. Some people try first one thing, and then another, but never seem to come to the place where they are really satisfied or happy. That is, not until they yield their lives to Christ and follow Him. Might this be what we mean when we say that as long as we drink of the water from Jacob's well, we will soon thirst again, but when we drink of the "living water" which Christ gives, we will never thirst again?



# signal lights

written by  
Alberta Holsinger

## Call to Worship:

Come to pray;  
Come to sing;  
Come to say  
I'll serve my King.

## PROJECT: Medical Outreach in India

# A Home and Help

"Here we are," said Rama. "This is the Christian Children's Home where I live."

Ahna pulled away from him. Singh stepped back from Larry and said, "We may be blind, but we have heard about the Christians. They teach strange things. We will not go in there!"

"Do not be frightened," Rama said. "I have been living here for a week. The Christians are kind and loving."

"If there's a doctor who can help you in this city," added Larry, "I expect he is a Christian."

That reminded Singh of why they were here. He must be brave. He must find help for Ahna and himself.

"We will go in," he said.

"Oh, Brother, do you think we should?" asked Ahna.

"I said I would find the doctor who could give us new eyes," Singh told her. "Come, we will go in."

Mrs. Dhan was coming down the hall when the four children opened the door.

"Hello, Rama and Larry," she said.

"Hello, Mrs. Dhan," answered the boys.

Rama walked to her quickly. "This is Singh and his sister Ahna. We met them on the road. They are blind. They heard there is a doctor in the city who can give them new eyes. Do you know him?"

Mrs. Dhan went to the blind children. She put her arms around them.

"There is a doctor who will look at your eyes. He can not give you new eyes, but perhaps he can fix the ones you have. Do you have a home?"

"No," answered Singh.

"Then we shall be happy to have you stay with us," Mrs. Dhan told them.

"I must go now," said Larry. "I have to help Mom and Dad pack. We will leave early in the morning."

"I shall miss you," said Rama.

"I'll write to you," promised Larry.

"And I'll write to you," declared Rama.

Larry was smiling as he went back to the hotel. "Thank you, God," he prayed silently. "Thank you for my new friends, Rama, Singh, and Ahna. I'm glad you showed me how to help them. I'm glad they will learn of you at the home and from the doctor."

## BIBLE THEME: Serving God

# A Woman Serves by Giving

One day Jesus was near the box where the people put their offerings for God.

A rich man came. He stopped to talk with the people nearby. As he talked he took a golden coin from his purse and put it into the box.

"Oh, see!" whispered one man to another. "See how much he gives to God."

Another wealthy man stepped up to the box. He, too, took a golden coin from his purse and noisily dropped it into the box.

After awhile a woman came to place her offering for God in the box. She was a poor woman. Her husband was dead. She worked hard for enough money to care for her family. Now she

quickly and quietly dropped two pennies into the box. Then she hurried away.

"Look," said Jesus to His friends. "That woman gave more to God than any of the others."

"But the others gave golden coins," reminded Judas. "This woman gave only two pennies."

"That's right," said Jesus, nodding His head. "Two pennies was all she had. The others have much more left for themselves. The woman gave her offering because she truly loves God. She gave Him all she could."

The widow served God through the offering she gave. This is another way we, too, can serve Him.

(Based on: Mark 12:41-44)



Hi, Everybody!

Wow! It's June already. School's out, summer's here, and what are you doing? Maybe you have a busy schedule planned or maybe you'll just take the summer as it comes. Either way, what will you be doing the week of August 9? Will you just be continuing your summer? Or will you be giving vacation a new excitement and a spiritual uplift at National Conference at Ashland College? If you haven't already been making plans to come, you still have time. If you've never come to Conference, this is a great year to start a new habit (one that you won't want to break). The Bicentennial Conference activities will be well worth your effort and all the time put into their planning. I'm sure you're curious about it all, as I am. Why don't you hitch a ride with your pastor and come find out what's happening at the Brethren Conference?

While you're there, you can become an active part of National Sisterhood! I have heard many girls or SMM groups say that they don't feel like a part of the National Sisterhood, and I can see why. If I were a member of a 4-H Club but could never attend any meetings, I wouldn't feel a part of the club. And I wouldn't feel like paying my dues or working on club projects. There would be no purpose to my membership. It's the same way with National Sisterhood—if I never attended National Conference SMM meetings, I wouldn't really feel like I was part of the group, even if I was a registered member.

In my 4-H group however, if I were unable to attend the meetings for some reason such as an illness that kept me at home or because I wasn't old enough to stay out that much, and another member came to visit me after each meeting telling me what had happened and sharing her excitement with me, I would feel more involved with the whole group, even though I was never able to attend the meetings. I would even want to help out with projects and share my ideas.

If your local SMM lacks enthusiasm, spirit, and interest, maybe it is because none of you has ever attended SMM at Conference and immediately gone back to share what went on with the rest of your group. Why don't you send one of your members this year if you can't all come. She can see what National Sisterhood is all about, then go home and share it with you. If she honestly tries to get interested in Sisterhood, its meetings and plans, and shares what she learned with you right away, I'm almost positive your local group will come alive. If you don't believe me, try it this summer!

Or do you want to start a SMM group at your church? Come to Conference and bring as many girls as you can, to get them on fire about the new organization. We'll help you get materials to get you started and raise interest.

Maybe some of you are wondering what sort of things we do at Conference, or what kind of things we talk about. I'll give you an idea of what will be going on at our meetings this summer. We have two excellent speakers lined up—Mrs.

Delbert Flora to talk about some of the earlier SMM societies and Rev. Virgil Ingraham to give us some ideas about how we can help in mission work. Also we'll discuss the possibility of having a "Clothes-and-bandages-for-world-relief Ingathering" next year at Conference.

How would you like to have a pen pal SMM group to get to know? Talk about this in your own group, and if you want to you'll have a chance to sign up at Conference. Or how about writing to missionary girls? We'll discuss this also.

If we can, we may just have a discussion time—when you can share your problems and joys of SMM and we can just get to know each other better.

As an added activity we'd like to roll lots of bandages during our meetings at Conference. So, bring all your old clean sheets, ripped in three-inch strips if possible, and we'll all help roll them into bandages which are greatly needed in India and other parts of the world.

Have I upset your plans to stay at home all summer? I hope so, because we want to get to know you and have you here to enjoy Conference with us this August. See you then.

Your sister in Christ,  
Nancy

SMM Scholarship

I would like to receive an application for the 1976 SMM Scholarship.

My name is:

address

My SMM Patroness is:

address

My pastor is:

address

My high school guidance counselor is:

school address

Return this form to:

Nancy Ronk  
227 College Ave.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

Be sure to include all information.



written by  
Pauline Benshoff  
for Juniors

## A Bicentennial Decree

**Opening Hymn:** America (sing all stanzas and think of the words).

**Circle of Prayer:** Join hands as you pray for:  
the leaders of our country  
people who know not God, that they may find Him this year  
boldness to tell others about Jesus  
willingness to do what is asked of us  
more faithful study of the Word  
a desire to be different from those in the world  
convictions about your body as God's temple  
convictions about what is allowed to pollute your mind  
a yielding of your whole self to the Holy Spirit's guiding.

**Leader's Opening Remarks:** We've had many topics over the months, each designed to help us find our place in God's time plan. Yet how much do we really know about God's Word? This is our Bicentennial year and what better way is there to commemorate it than to pledge ourselves anew to God and determine to study His Word. Then we won't just know **about** it, we'll begin to **know it**. If God is in the business of changing lives (and we know He is), He can change us, our families, our cities, and our nation. We are told to let the Word of God dwell in us richly. Well, the degree to which we will allow it to dwell in our mind and heart will determine our growth and stability and maturity in the spiritual life.

### AIM I. TO KNOW HIM MORE PERFECTLY.

Our aim is "to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19). Also, in John 8:32 we are told we "shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." Then in Acts 22:15, we are given the reason that we need to know Him more perfectly—"For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard." Our first aim is to know Him, for this is the key that unlocks God's will and plan for us.

### AIM II. TO MEDITATE UPON HIS WORD.

Small passages or even a verse with related verses sometimes become a real "gold nugget" to our understanding. The Holy Spirit is ready to lead us into truth and reveal Christ to us more vividly. The Holy Spirit takes the thoughts on which we meditate and incorporates them into our spiritual lives. In a sense the Word becomes a

very part of us. We eat it, as it were, and it becomes bread, spiritual food for our spiritual body.

Think on Psalm 23, for instance. Meditate on "Shepherd". Now think about all the loving care and attention a real shepherd gives his sheep. Jesus is OUR Shepherd. He cares for us. Think, I'M one of His Sheep. How good God is to me. Meditate on the Lord (Psalm 23:1). Let your thinking begin by envisioning the Lord's holiness (Jesus is God, Lord), His care, His great love and even His great power. Then think, HE is my Shepherd now, and always will be. To meditate simply means to "dwell upon," so let your mind just "dwell upon" and be full of the things of the Lord.

### AIM III. TO PRAY IN FAITH BELIEVING.

Our continued study of the Word will stimulate a life of prayer, worship and devotion. The Bible can match every mood we're in; it can meet every situation; it can strengthen our faith. R. A. Torrey once said, "Earth has no joy like that which fills the soul as we bow before God in worship, asking nothing, seeking nothing from Him, just occupied with Himself and satisfied with Himself." As we believe, so let us pray, saying "Thank you Lord" for hearing and answering. Then believe what you said, in faith believing that God will honor your request in your best interest. Continue to praise Him for all things, and especially because He is God. Pray for understanding and pray so that you can be obedient and pleasing unto Him in your life.

**Leader:** If our lives, our church and our country are to be changed it has to begin with each of us. Let us determine to read our Bibles regularly and study them more; let us pray for God's will to be done in us, as well as in America. Certainly it all boils down to this, I need to be concerned about what God thinks of me, my family, my church, my country. We need to make a new start and decree to give it all back to God. He is the only one who can make it right.

### Helpful References:

II Chronicles 7:14	Proverbs 14:34
Psalm 9:17	Habakkuk 2:15
John 12:48	II Peter 3:9

### Business:

### Benediction:

**Refreshments:** (Why not have an old-fashioned Bible Quiz to entertain yourselves while your hostess readies your refreshments?)



# *Seize your opportunity!*

---

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Class  
Stamp

Miss Dorothy Carpenter, Secretary  
Brethren Church Properties, Inc.  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, OH 44805



# *The Church's Opportunity is Yours!*

## *Steps in fulfilling a need as the Brethren Church grows.*

### **Past Steps:**

The 1971 General Conference authorized movement toward the provision of ample office space for denominational needs.

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### **Present Steps:**

Two properties adjoining the Brethren Publishing Company on the east are available as a building site.

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**Urge** your congregation to include the Board in its annual budget or encourage special offerings.

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Date needed—on or before July 10, 1976

Maximum needed—\$50,000 (over 10% already promised)

### **Future Steps:**

The actual construction of a Central Offices building.

A supporting endowment fund for this and other needs of the Brethren Church.

## *Response form*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a term of \_\_\_\_\_ years at \_\_\_\_\_ % interest

Money will be available by (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks or questions:



# Bicentennial Conference

## Briefs

### CONFERENCE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS ANNOUNCED

**ASHLAND (Ohio)** — The General Conference Executive Committee recently released the program highlights for the special Bicentennial gathering scheduled here for Aug. 9 to 13.

Tuesday and Wednesday will feature presentations of the Brethren Church's past. Historical sermons will be given by Charles Munson (Henry Holsinger), Jerry Flora (C. F. Yoder), Herb Gilmer (Alexander Mack), and J. Ray Klingensmith.

Historical vignettes to be presented on Wednesday are: "My Neighbor's Good" (about Brethren during the Revolutionary War), "United Stand Against Slavery" (pre-Civil War times), "Cost of the Times" (the first Brethren baptisms in Germany), and "A Christmas Birth in America" (the first communion in America).

Thursday's activities will focus on our "Hope in the Present." Services will be conducted by the Missionary Board, the Board of Christian Education, and the Women's Missionary Society. The Carpenter's Shop and the Ronk Memorial Chapel will be dedicated that afternoon. The day will conclude with an ice cream social.

"Hope for the Future" will be the theme for Friday, the closing day of the conference. Denominational executives will make presentations on possibilities for the future of the Brethren Church.

The week will conclude on Friday evening with an all-conference celebration of the Love Feast.

### ANNOUNCING: HOUSING AND MEALS

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Conference housing will be available in Kem (open at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 8) and Amstutz (open at 8:30 a.m., Monday, Aug. 9) halls. Room costs per person per night are \$3.75 for double occupancy and \$4.25 for single occupancy.

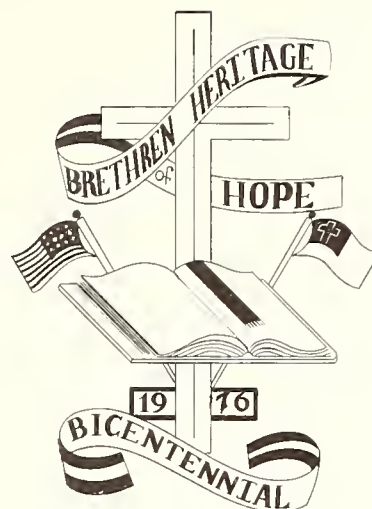
Meals in the Myers Convocation Center cafeteria will be \$1.85 for lunch, \$2.50 for dinner, and a la carte for breakfast.

### REMINDER OF BICENTENNIAL OFFERING

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The Executive Committee of General Conference wishes to remind Brethren churches of the special offering to be taken on July 4. Receipts from the offering will be used to offset the costs of the Bicentennial celebration planned here during the week of Aug. 9.

The offering was authorized by the 1975 General Conference. Specially designed inserts and envelopes will be sent to churches shortly.

Gifts should be designated for the "Bicentennial Offering" and sent payable to: The Brethren Church, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.



### ANNOUNCING AGAIN: GENERAL CONFERENCE BAND AND CHOIR

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—The Bicentennial Conference Music Committee has issued another call for participation in the 1976 General Conference band and choir.

The choir will present the Singspiration musical, "I Love America," written by John Peterson and Don Wyrzten, on Wednesday morning, Aug. 11. Those interested in singing should contact Doris Shultz immediately at 455 S. Countryside Dr., Ashland, Ohio 44805, indicating vocal part sung. They should also purchase and become familiar with the musical, which is available from the Carpenter's Shop at \$2.95.

Band members are still needed for the Monday night concert. Prospective members should send their name, address, and instrument played to the band director, James Lentz, at 405 N. Madison, Nappanee, Ind. 46550.

### DELEGATES' NAMES REQUESTED

**ASHLAND (Ohio)**—Delegates to the 1976 General Conference will receive personalized souvenir badges for identification during the Bicentennial celebration in August. John Rowsey recently requested that names of "definitely committed delegates" to the gathering be sent to him as soon as possible.

The conference is expected to attract 1,000 people of whom 500 to 600 will be delegates. Personalization of the special badges at registration time would prove a monumental task.

Names of prospective delegates should be sent to: Delegates, Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.





## **FUTURE SITE BRETHREN CENTRAL OFFICES**

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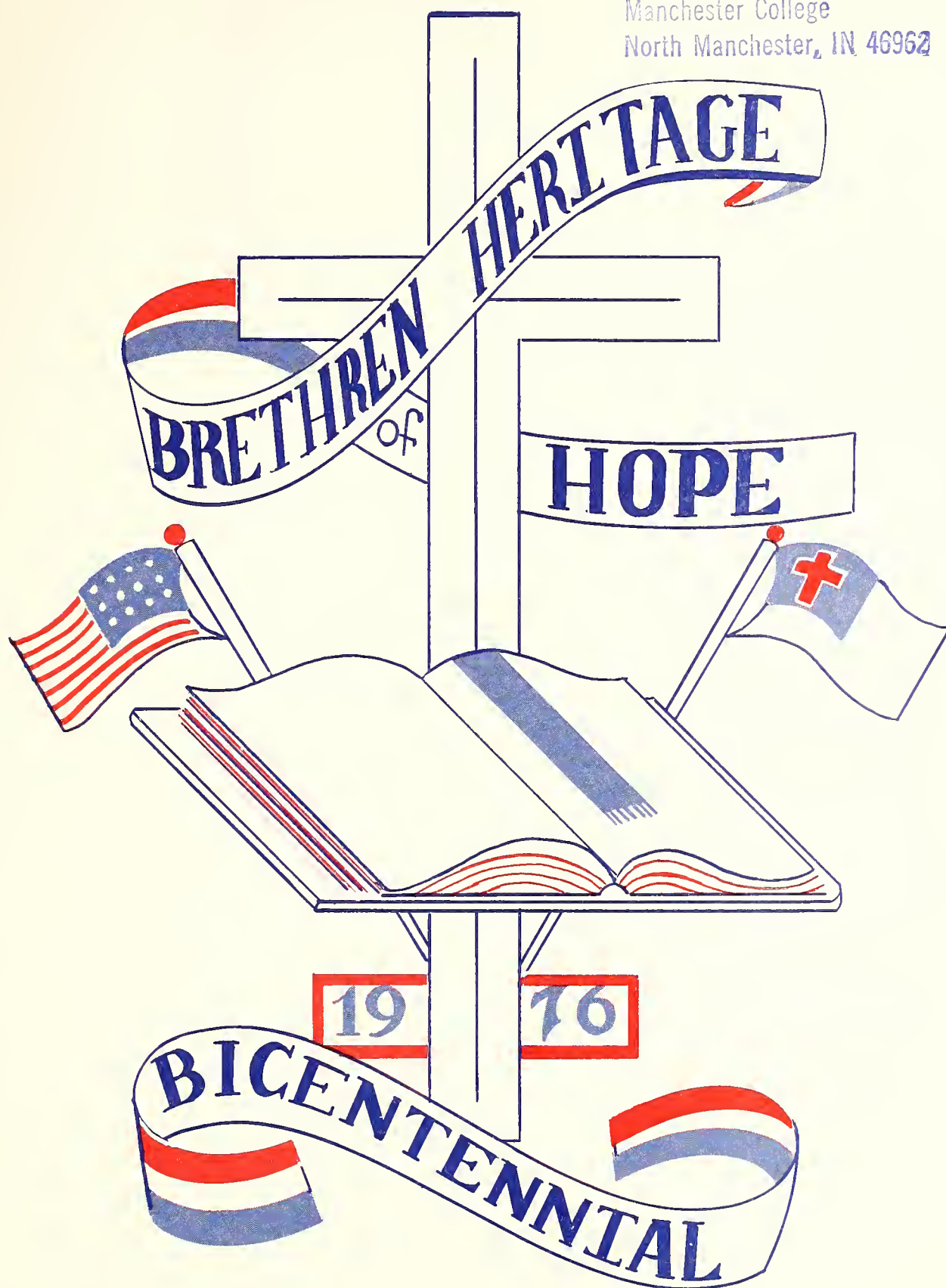




# *The Brethren* **EVANGELIST**

*July 1976*

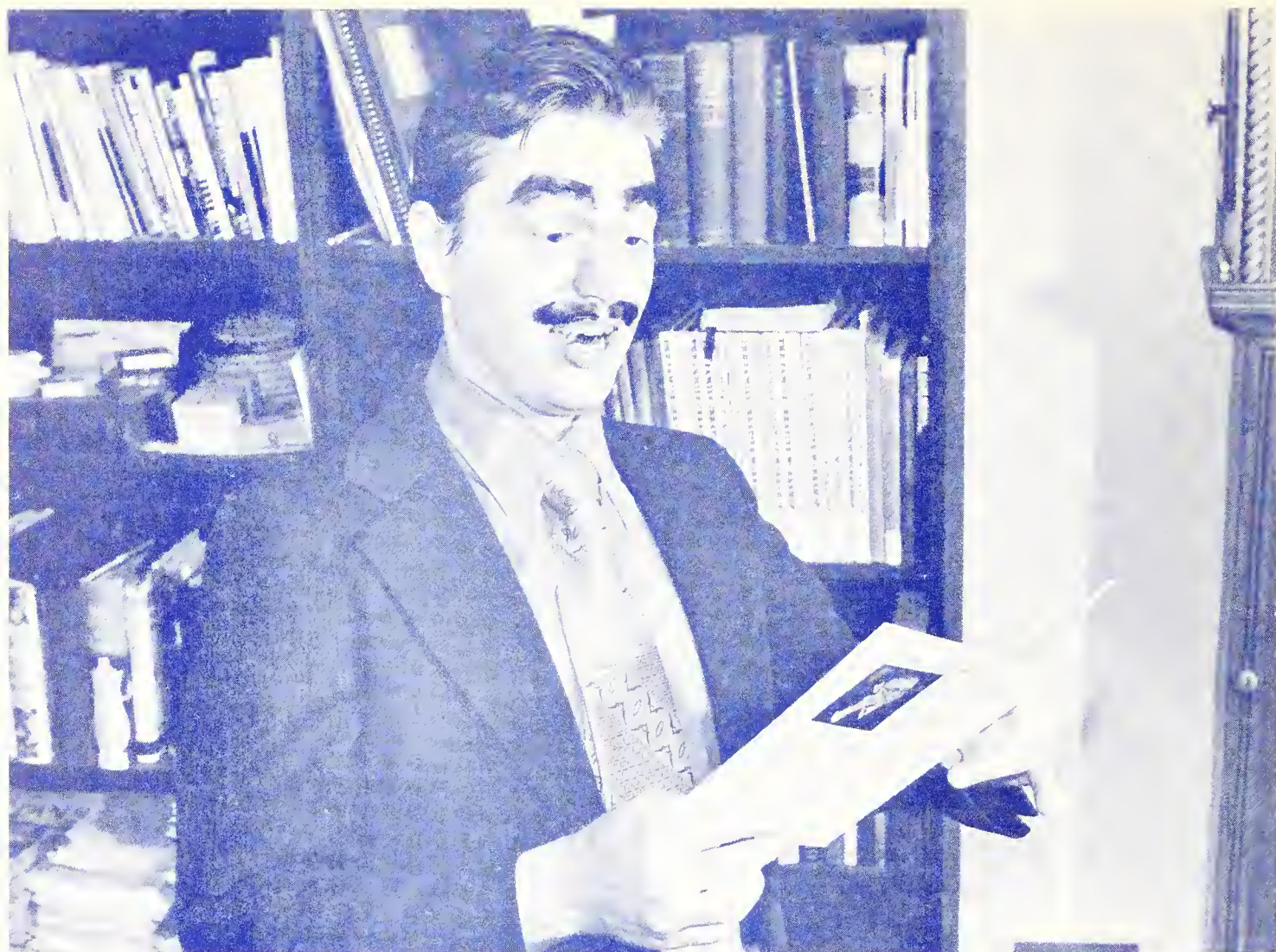
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*Brethren and the Revolution*

(see page 4)





**If you haven't seen the Brethren Quarterly lately,  
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#### 4 Brethren and the Revolution

*Richard Craver tells of the freedoms the Brethren lost during the Revolutionary period and how it affected the growth of the church.*

#### 7 Commandments of Freedom

*Are there rules for freedom? Charles Lowmaster has found ten commandments of freedom in Galatians 5 and 6 in this month's Bible study.*

#### 8 Organizing for Growth

*"The Brethren Church can have an effective denominational organization if . . .," according to Fred Burkey in his introduction to a General Conference position paper.*

#### 10 Mission Churches Grow

*Yes, there is life after birth for home mission churches. Don't miss these reports compiled by the Missionary Board.*

#### 21 Seeking a New Pastor

*Smith Rose gives pointers to the "pastoral search committee" in the first of a series of articles on the relationship of pastor and people.*

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#### editors' notes

Dear Reader,

The time we've all been waiting for has finally arrived—the American Bicentennial. Personally, I can hardly wait for it to pass so we can get back to solving the day-to-day problems of the world (and commercials that have anyone but our Founding Fathers in them).

Yet, it has been good to reflect on our heritage and be thankful for all the good that has taken place in the 200 years of our nation's existence.

Christians have had a part in that heritage. Dick Craver describes the situation of our Brethren forbears in the 1770's on page 4. Surely they must have wondered whether freedom existed anywhere.

In a different vein is Fred Burkey's article on denominational organization (page 8). It is actually an introduction to a longer analysis and proposal on that subject which will be given at General Conference. A careful reading of this piece will be well worth your time. (Be sure to read his book review, too, on page 20, for more food for thought.)

Happy reading!

Ron Waters

MEMBER  EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION



# Brethren and the Revolution

by Richard Craver

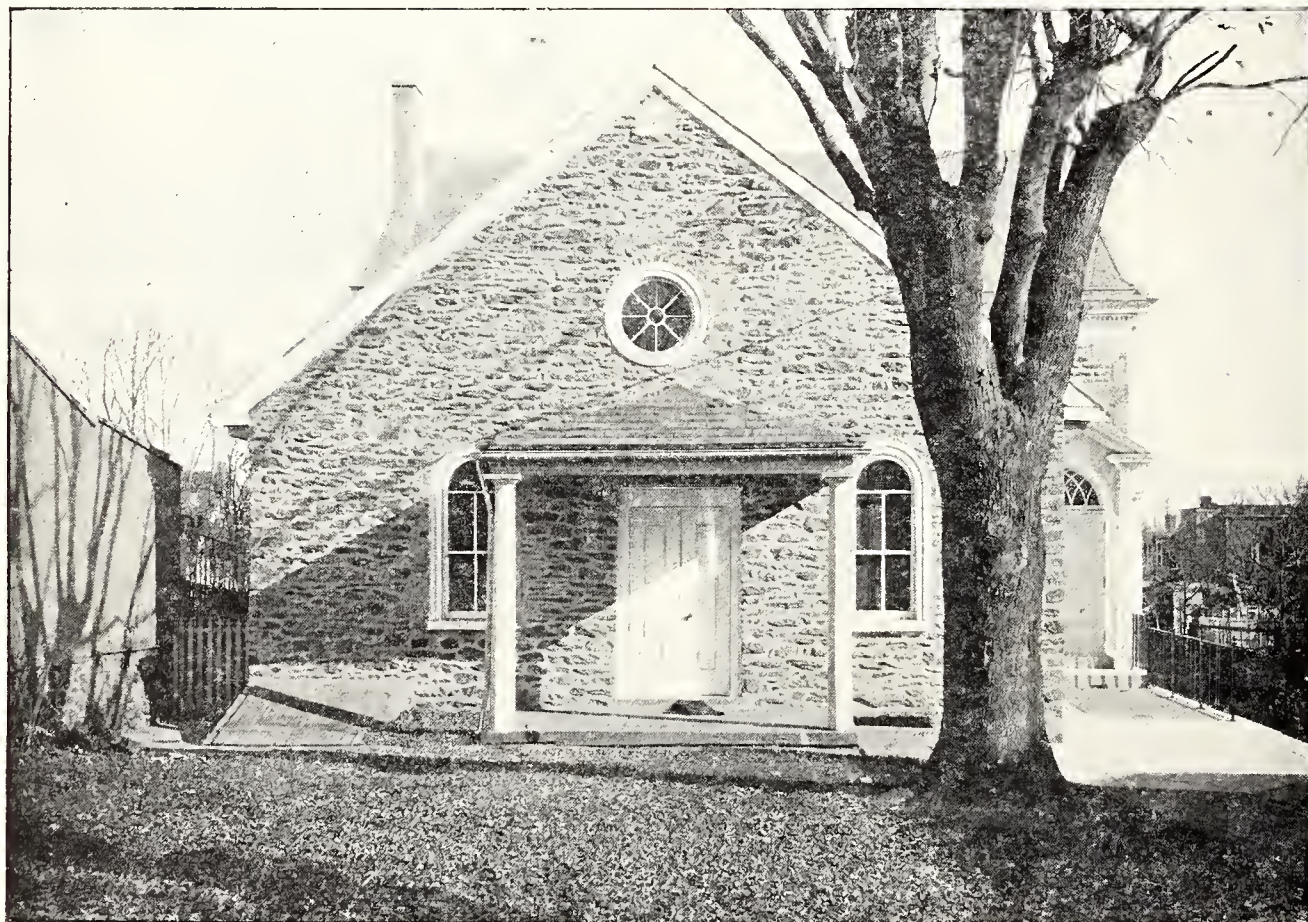
**P**ERSECUTION by German authorities led the Brethren to seek freedom of expression in America in the early 1700's. Settling in the Germantown area near Philadelphia, they found a land where they could practice their religion as they wished without persecution or ridicule. By 1776, meetinghouses were being built, and the church was growing among the German-speaking immigrants.

The peaceful situation was soon to be shattered, however, as cries for freedom and independence were voiced among the colonists and as the voices of men were replaced by the guns of revolution.

One belief the Brethren held was "that it is not becoming a follower of Jesus Christ

to bear arms, or fight" (Rufus Bowman, **The Church of the Brethren and War**, p. 71). The ramifications of this belief did not at first seem great, as the Assembly of Pennsylvania, on June 30, 1775, recommended goodwill toward those who did not feel they could bear arms. Instead, the Assembly asked only that the nonresisters help in other ways with the war effort.

However, in October 1775 a committee in Philadelphia called for the formation of militia companies. Those who for reason of conscience could not bear arms were compelled to pay a sum of 50 shillings to coordinate their status with that of those in the companies, with respect to the danger, loss of time, and the expenses they faced.



*Germantown meetinghouse, built in 1770.*



## The Brethren came to America to flee persecution. But 50 years later they faced a new form of persecution.

Naturally, such a payment was not viewed highly. In response to the actions of the Assembly, the Brethren wrote:

“ . . . we have dedicated ourselves to serve all men in everything that can be helpful to the preservation of men's lives, but we find no freedom in giving, or doing, or assisting in anything by which men's lives are destroyed or hurt . . . ” (Bowman, p. 80).

Opposition to the nonresisters grew, and on April 6, 1776, the Assembly ordered the collection of all arms from them and an increase in the tax from 50 to 70 shillings. But disarmament and the additional taxation did not cause the Brethren to forsake their belief on bearing arms against their fellow man.

Further problems for the Brethren centered on their belief in nonswearing (taking oaths), which was based on Matthew 5:34. On June 13, 1777, the Pennsylvania Assembly passed a law which required all white inhabitants 18 and over to take an oath of allegiance. Among other things, the oath call for: 1) renouncing allegiance to King George III and his successors; 2) allegiance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and 3) information concerning those who did anything that was treasonous and about any traitorous conspiracy against the nation. Upon taking the oath, a person was given a certificate of verification.

Those who refused or neglected to take the oath were placed under severe strictures. They were declared to be ineligible to hold any office or important post in the state, and they could not vote; they could not serve on juries or collect debts by legal means; and they could not buy, sell, or bequeath to others property or possessions. Further, if a man was found outside his county without a certificate, he was considered a spy or one fostering principles hostile to the United States. In October 1777 the Council of Safety ordered military personnel to confiscate blankets, shoes, and stockings from them for the army.

Still the Assembly was not satisfied, and on April 1, 1778, they adopted a new law which required the swearing of allegiance to Pennsylvania by June 1. Refusal could result in imprisonment of up to three months, a fine of ten pounds, and banishment from the country. Also, the property and possessions of such persons would pass on to their heirs only if the heirs would take the oath.

Perhaps no one exemplifies the situation of the Brethren better than Christopher Sower. Sower had been actively printing German Bibles to meet the needs of the German community in America. He also printed a newspaper and almanac with wide circulation up and down the eastern seaboard. But because Sower voiced disagreement with many of the radical political statements of the day, he was considered by some in the young government as an enemy of American liberty. Eventually his press was confiscated, and the German voice was silenced.

The pressure must have begun to break the will of some of the Brethren. Concerning the oath, the Annual Meeting of 1778 declared:

“After much reflection, in the fear of the Lord, it has been concluded in union, that the brethren who have taken the attest should recall it before a justice, and give up their certificate, and recall and apologize in their churches, and truly repent for the error. . . .”

The following year the problem again arose, and the response was similar:

“On account of taking the attest it has been concluded in union as follows: In as much as it is the Lord our God who establishes kings and removes kings, and ordains rulers according to his own good pleasure, we cannot know whether God has rejected the king and chosen the state. . . . Therefore we could not, with a good conscience, repudiate the king and give allegiance to the state.”

*(continued on next page)*



“Despite the pressures of their peers, the Brethren were willing to bear whatever burden might be cast upon them.”

Despite the pressures of their peers, the Brethren were willing to bear whatever burden might be cast upon them. They were to pay their taxes, if their consciences permitted it, to avoid offense, but the consciences of those who could not pay them were to be respected.

Several definite effects of the American Revolution upon the Brethren movement can be noted. First, colonists loyal to the American cause avoided contact with the Brethren, considering them Tories and fearing that such contact might raise suspicion of themselves as well. As a result, a greater

degree of separation from other peoples developed.

The confiscation of the Sower press silenced the important German voice in the young nation and among the Brethren. (Bowman believes this action set the church back 75 years.) Thus, there were few, if any, publications to promote Brethren thought or to maintain contact among the people in different parts of the country.

Because of the persecution in eastern Pennsylvania in particular, the Brethren began a westerly and southerly migration resulting in new congregations in the frontier areas of the nation.

The Revolutionary War was a trying time for our Brethren fathers. They found themselves persecuted in a land striving for freedom. But though their beliefs were severely tested, they remained firm in them, even at great personal cost.

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*Richard Craver is a senior at Ashland Theological Seminary and is pastoring the Highland church in Pennsylvania while completing his training.*



*Home of Christopher Sower, with printing press in rear.*



# Commandments of Freedom

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by Charles Lowmaster

*Read Galatians 5 and 6.*

The hope of every born again Christian is for the day when Christ returns to receive His church and take us all to be with Him in His Kingdom. In the meantime, we are in a period of waiting. We have already been given our liberty from the penalty of sin through our identification with the atonement of Jesus Christ. But what shall we do while we wait for His return?

If we accept the position of Galatians 2:20, that "Christ lives in me," then the implication of John 10:16—"other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring"—and the parable of the ten pounds found in Luke 19:11 give us some direction of what to do to "occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13).

In calling us to assist Christ in outreach to the "other sheep," however, Paul is concerned that not only the work of Christ be completed but that it be completed in the proper spirit. James (5:7ff) suggests the need to develop great patience, cautioning us against being grumpy and irritable and reminding us that we must also face the judgment of a righteous God.

In our text from Galatians 5 and 6, Paul is concerned with the spirit of the believer. He reminds us that though it is true that we are free in Christ, the very process by which that liberty was appropriated (I take my rightful place with Christ on the cross, dying with Him there, and He takes residence in my life to complete His earthly ministry through me here—Galatians 2:20.) necessitates that my liberty cannot be used to satisfy only my fleshly appetites, desires, and human passions (Galatians 5:13). The spirit of Christ was a spirit of loving concern for others first, whether worthy or not. Therefore, if He truly is resident in us, something of that spirit must characterize us as Christians.

Paul knew that though we are theoretically supposed to be dead and resurrected, with Christ

living in us, "nevertheless I live" (Galatians 2:20), and our old human nature constantly strives for resurrection. Therefore he reminds the Christian to be on guard against the old nature.

To maintain a Christlike spirit in all that we do, Paul gives "ten commandments of freedom" for serving Christ:

1. Put others first and serve them with love (Galatians 5:13).
2. Avoid unkind and spiteful criticism; it will destroy you (5:15).
3. Know the indicators of the Spirit-filled life (5:19-23).
4. Don't covet praise and position; don't be an irritant to others or be envious (5:26).
5. Instead of being quick to criticize and castigate, be quick to help; remember, you are not perfect and might need help someday too (6:1).
6. Don't get too busy or proud to share the burdens of another (6:2-4).
7. Be generous and share your material things with the one who teaches you spiritual knowledge (6:6).
8. Remember that in using your freedom, God's principle of life is still the same: you reap the fruit of what you sow (6:7; also see Deuteronomy 28).
9. The world doesn't always respond kindly to good deeds or kind intentions, but don't let that discourage or stop you from trying to do good (6:9).
10. Try to do good to everyone, but pay special attention to your fellow believer (6:10).

In this lonely, impersonal world we live in, think what a powerful influence a life so lived would be! What a breath of heaven could be injected into our world if Christians could be set aflame with this spirit of love. You have the power to say "yes" to this spirit. Will you make it the symbol of your freedom today?

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*Charles Lowmaster is pastor of the First Brethren Church of Louisville, Ohio, and is a writer for the Brethren Quarterly.*

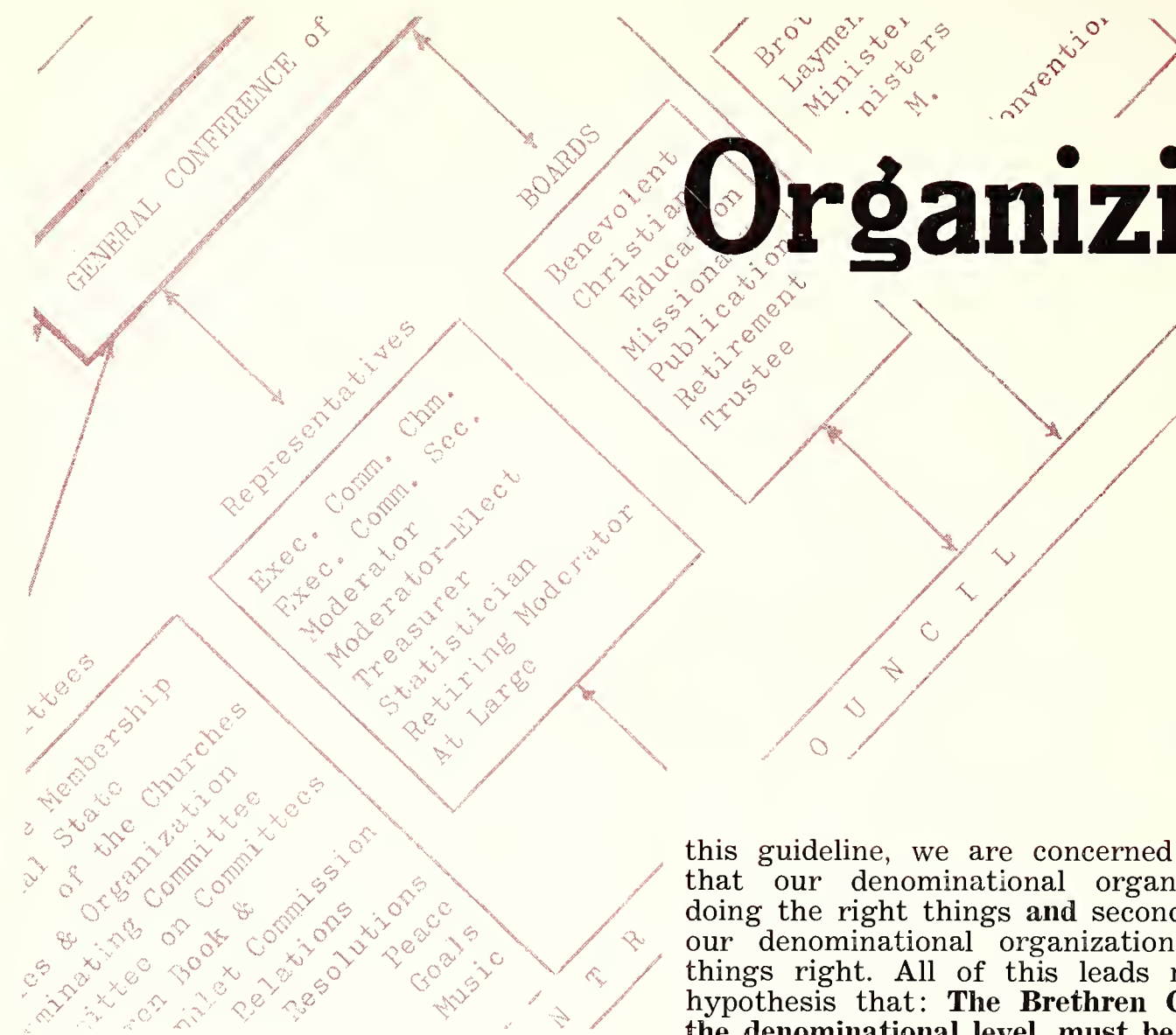
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We are free, but not without  
responsibility.



# Organizing

by  
Fred  
Burkey



ONE of the first questions raised in most church growth seminars is: "Can your church grow?" The prescribed response is "Yes . . . if it wants to grow; if it applies growth principles; if it is willing to pay the price; and if it does not already have a terminal illness." The question raised in this paper is "Can we devise an effective denominational organization for the Brethren Church?" Again, the answer is "Yes . . . if we really want effective organization; if we apply appropriate scriptural and management principles; if we are willing to pay the price; and if we do not already have a terminal illness."

The issue really hinges on the first "if." If growth is not desired, none can occur. Likewise, if we are really happy as we are, we will see no need to scrutinize our denominational organization and evaluate it in terms of effectiveness. Perhaps we should amplify the term "effectiveness." Peter Drucker distinguishes between efficiency and effectiveness by suggesting that the former is the ability to do things right, whereas the latter is the ability to do the right things (*The Effective Executive*, pp. 1-2). Using

this guideline, we are concerned primarily that our denominational organization is doing the right things and secondarily that our denominational organization is doing things right. All of this leads me to the hypothesis that: **The Brethren Church, at the denominational level, must be organized for growth.** Thus, in terms of effectiveness in carrying out the Great Commission, some changes must be made both in our concepts of organization and administration.

Turning to the second "if," I believe that the present structure at best hinders and at worst prevents denominational agencies from the use of scripturally sound management practices in critical situations. For example, we have all witnessed the destruction of a congregation by a troublesome pastor (or the opposite!). We have discussed the situation; prayed about it; lamented that we could do nothing; then waited until the damage was done to go out and try to pull a shattered group (or pastor) back together. Offhand I can recall several such incidents in the last few years. Is it any wonder that these churches have found themselves devoid of growth? Somehow it seems to me that we ignore problems until they become full-blown calamities. This has produced sterility. **It is God's will that His church grow, that His lost children are found!** That is our purpose. Yet, time and again our purpose has been thwarted by a spirit of contentiousness. We know well enough that some of our problems are spiritual. We must also acknowledge



# for Growth

## Introduction to a paper on church organization.

that some of our problems are due to improper organization and management.

If we were to place our operational leadership methodology on a continuum between two theoretical extremes:

### MAR ————— MOR

where would we be? To the left we find **Management by Activity and Reaction (MAR)**. Planning is accomplished immediately prior to or in concert with action; there are frequent changes in plan due either to lack of time in which to consider alternatives or lack of predetermined objectives. This is "seat of the pants" management. Effectiveness is measured by the flurry of activity that goes on and the effort that is put forth rather than by the results they produce. On the right is **Management by Objectives and Results (MOR)**. Here management defines in advance the results (objectives) to be achieved and the program steps required for achievement of these results. Implicit in this approach is the anticipation of unexpected obstacles and the development of contingency plans (George Morrissey, **Management by Objectives and Results**, p. 10ff.). We may realistically compare MAR with firefighting (a very important activity) and MOR with fire prevention. MAR is always evident—for lack of planning insures an abundance of fires to be extinguished! Olan Hendrix asserts that "the recurrent crisis is the most common symptom of poor management work." On the other hand, MOR is rarely seen. When it is at work, problems are anticipated, planned for, and handled without disrupting the workflow. George Morrissey warns us to beware ". . . for the firefighter is often the arsonist!"

In practice, neither extreme is likely to exist in its purest sense. Nevertheless, the general absence of goal orientation in Brethren churches, districts, and in denominational agencies suggests that we tend toward the MAR extreme. Therefore, I pose a second hypothesis that: **The Brethren Church can**

**benefit greatly if scripturally sound management principles are applied to all operational aspects of our ministry.**

"If" number three. **There is a price to be paid.** Much patient study, thought, and prayer will have to be invested to prepare us to take the risk of change. There will be criticism—some justified, some unjustified. Each of us may sense some personal threat as we move through the process of organizing for effectiveness. To fear change is natural. I find myself talking more about it and doing less of it every year. I too have a price to pay.

Finally, the fourth "if" relates to the terminal illness of the organization. I don't think the Brethren Church is terminally ill, far from it! A little feeble maybe, but gaining strength with every passing day. Great strides have been made since the bold decision to launch the church growth program in 1973. The church has shown a general willingness to respond to positive leadership and that, in the final analysis, is the real

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**We can have an effective  
denominational organization  
if . . .**

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theme of this paper. **We will achieve effective organization to the degree that we are able to design a structure which permits and encourages the exercise of the spiritual gift of administration.**

This paper is intended to be the beginning—not the end—of our investigation of this important subject. It is a study paper, not a finished product. Let us work toward the goal of effective, efficient, and economical organization at the denominational level of the Brethren Church, anticipating that similar studies may follow on the district and local church levels.

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*Fred Burkey is director of Christian education for the Brethren Church.*



## At Pittsburgh . . .

God is blessing the bus ministry method here for the harvesting of souls. A dedicated band of lay people led by Bus Captain Jimmy McLaughlin visit every Saturday recruiting people to ride the buses to church on Sunday. As a result church attendance has jumped from an average of 55 to 81 in the past six months. A second bus has been purchased, and 33 people rode it to church on its inaugural run, helping to push total attendance that day to 100. The \$1,000 for the bus is being raised by people purchasing \$5.00 shares (want to buy a share in an exciting ministry?). Eight people were baptized on April 4.

## At Stockton . . .

Since participating in a church growth seminar in January, growth has taken place. Under the leadership of its energetic superintendent, Wes Steyer, the Sunday school is breaking attendance records regularly. Pastor Lawson writes, "We averaged 83 in Sunday school in March and broke another attendance record by having 92 on March 14. In April we broke two attendance records with 93 on April 11 and 109 on April 18." Morning worship attendance has increased 43 percent during the last quarter.

## At Cheyenne . . .

Increasing attendances have resulted in "expanding" vision. The church has voted to expand the present facilities and hopefully begin construction in a year. An expansion fund has been started.

They are planning now to enlarge their physical plant so that anticipated future growth will not be stopped because of inadequate facilities.

Sunday school attendance has increased 42 percent and morning worship attendance by 36 percent since January. The addition of seven new members brings their membership to 51. A senior citizens' program has been started, and an active, well organized lay visitation program is in operation. Tentmakers Paul and Paula Deardurff continue to work hard for the church's growth.

## At Derby . . .

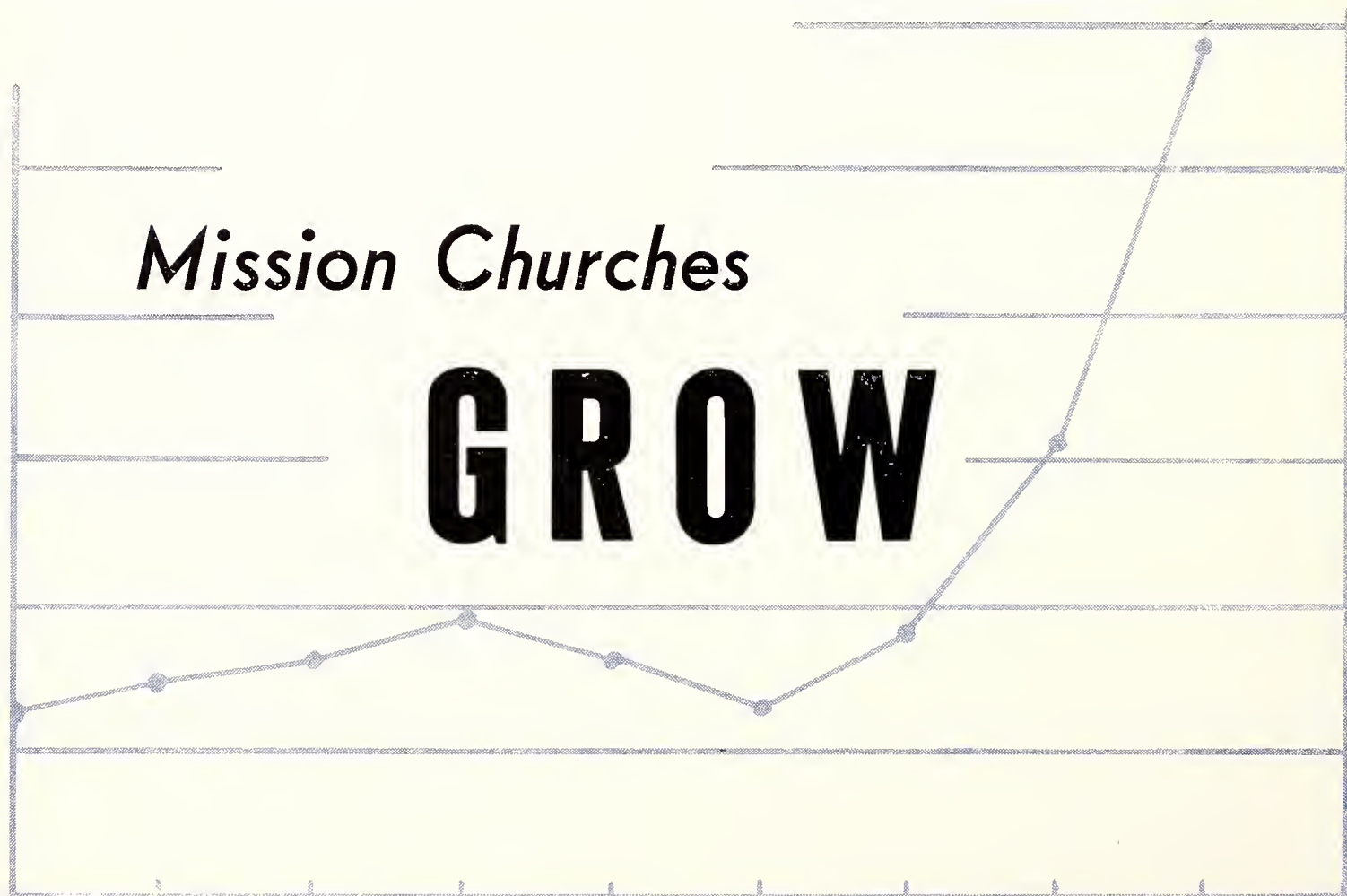
April's average of 103 was the first time this church exceeded a monthly average attendance of 100. Attendance for the first four Sundays in May averaged 123. New families continue to attend each week. City government officials were given personal invitations to attend "Community Concerns Day" services on May 2; total attendance was 125!

Pastor George Solomon reports, "Our growing Sunday school makes it necessary for us to find more classrooms. Much prayer, planning, and sharing has led us to build a new parsonage on the lot north of the present one and convert the present parsonage into Sunday school rooms. The Lord has opened every door."

The parsonage building was started in June, and the foundation was poured one week ahead of schedule. A Laymen's work crew has been recruited for the week of July 12, with space available for campers and trailers and with Derby Brethren providing other lodging and meals. James Payne (R.R. 2, Russiaville, IN 46979; phone —317-883-7149) has organized the crew.

# Mission Churches

# GROW





# New Church in Tucson

by Arden Gilmer

One way for the Brethren Church to grow is to plant new local churches. Just as Christians should reproduce themselves by leading others to the Lord, so congregations can reproduce themselves by starting new congregations. This process is known as extension growth.

The Brethren are now working through this process in Tucson, Ariz. On January 27, 1976, approximately nine "seed" families from the First Brethren Church of Tucson held a worship service in the growing northwest section of the city. Their purpose: to worship the Lord and to reach this growing community for the Lord Jesus Christ by starting a new church. Every Sunday since then they have met in the excellent facilities of Thornydale School for both morning and evening services. Through the week Bible studies are held in various homes.

The core group is busy reaching out to new people. Hundreds of homes have been contacted using a door-to-door witness survey approach. Attractive bulk mailings have been sent to people living in northwest Tucson to acquaint them with the new church. In June a family-centered vacation Bible school was conducted. Pastor Bill Curtis is active in his pastoral visitation. Responsive people are being discovered through these activities. For the first quarter of 1976, Sunday school attendance averaged 28, and morning worship averaged 45. Three people have been baptized into the new fellowship.

The new church, currently known as Northwest Brethren Chapel, has been organized for growth. So that it can be flexible and respond quickly to

needs and opportunities, a steering committee has been formed to handle the administrative tasks of the new work. They meet together regularly to brainstorm about new approaches for reaching the community as well as to make leadership decisions.

The work of Northwest Brethren Chapel is currently being supported by:

... the faithful stewardship of the people who have given themselves to start the new church;

... the faith promise giving of the First Brethren Church of Tucson, the mother church; and

... you and other members and friends of the Brethren Church through your home missions giving to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.

Financial support will be given by the Missionary Board to the young church for two years on the basis of a decreasing scale and with possible extension into the third year. The goal is a completely self-supporting, vital, growing church within that period of time.

It's an exciting ministry full of potential, possibilities, and faith-stretching opportunities. Pray daily for Pastor Bill Curtis, his family, and the people of vision making up Northwest Brethren Chapel.

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*Arden Gilmer is the director of evangelism/church growth for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.*



*Northwest Brethren Chapel meets in the Thornydale School.*

Photo by Arden Gilmer



*More missions news on  
pages 22-23.*



# church growth forum

## Pitfalls of Task Forces

by Arden Gilmer

After exposure to growth principles through Church Growth Seminar One, most churches want to gear up for growth. To do this, they often form a church growth task force.

The task force is generally an ad hoc group composed initially of many who attended the seminar, but it is also open to everyone in the church who is interested in church growth and willing to attend.

The group usually starts with high enthusiasm. All too often, however, it begins to lose its zip over time, and those who continue to attend experience a high frustration level—quite a contrast from their feelings when they started. As time passes, the group may become increasingly ineffective. Why does this happen so frequently?

### Pitfalls

There are several reasons why a church growth task force might become ineffective. Here are just four:

**Pitfall 1.** The initial group, though highly motivated, may have a very limited understanding of what church growth principles are. This lack of knowledge becomes increasingly apparent as the group tries to put practical arms, legs, and feet to its motivation. They soon realize that they have no answers to the question "What do we do now?" In short, they fail to explore fully the principles of church growth, spending their time instead in planning activities based on their former assumptions.

**Pitfall 2.** The group may have no guidelines on how to proceed, and they may have only a vague idea of their reason for existence.

**Pitfall 3.** The task force may have no official status and no authority to act. In that case, all they can do is get together to talk. And because they have no official status, the creative ideas they generate are rarely implemented by the official board, if they are even given a hearing.

**Pitfall 4.** Many times the elected leaders of the church are not involved in the church growth task

force, and they may not have even attended Church Growth Seminar One. Because they do not understand growth principles, they feel threatened by all those new ideas coming from the task force, and they respond to them negatively. The resulting barrier between the task force and the church officials then retards growth and debilitates the task force.

### Overcoming the pitfalls

Has your task force faced any of these problems? If so, don't be too discouraged; they can be overcome, even though the price in time and energy may be high. Here are some possible solutions:

To avoid pitfall 1, the task force should continually give itself to the study of church growth principles until its members become so conversant with them that they begin to think naturally in terms of those principles. Increased knowledge of the principles will bring added insight in understanding the church and the community.

Pitfall 2 can be avoided or overcome if the task force makes its first task the development of its own specific statement of purpose. After developing the statement, the group should use it as a guide to keep itself on the target of its responsibility.

Giving official status to the task force would help to avoid pitfall 3. Since responsibility should always be coupled with corresponding authority, the task force must be given the authority to do its work.

Finally, pitfall 4 can be avoided if all congregational leaders (pastor included) become church growth persons, developing growth attitudes and applying growth principles in all phases of their areas of ministry.

Actually, the best task force would probably be one composed of the entire official board of the church. They have been recognized as leaders, and church leaders who take their positions seriously should be dedicated to growth. After all, it is the number one New Testament priority for the church. As the task force, they could meet monthly to develop their expertise in leading the church into new vistas of growth for the glory of God, the nurturing of Christians, and the finding of the lost. The end result could be a dynamic, progressive, and exciting church.

Can your task force regain its effectiveness? You'll never know until you determine to overcome the pitfalls of task forces.

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### Membership Growth

Ardmore: 2 by baptism, 3 by letter  
Burlington: 8 by baptism  
Elkhart: 11 by baptism, 1 by transfer  
Sarasota: 6 by baptism



# Growth News

## Wayne Heights: New Heights

This year is the 25th birthday of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church, Waynesboro, Pa. They decided that it should be a year of growth. Pastor Henry Bates reports, "At the beginning of the year we set a goal of 25 percent growth in our 25th year. The 25 percent growth was figured on a monthly growth pattern which, if attained each month, would produce the total 25 percent growth at the end of the year. Thus each month's goals are about 3 higher than the preceding month. We also set individual class attendance goals for each month and recognize the classes which attain their goals. Once the people realized that these goals were attainable, they began to get enthused about them."

In April the attendance goal for Sunday school was 94. Actual attendance was 93, up 6 from a year ago. Morning worship attendance goal was 86. Actual attendance was 89, up 10 from a year ago. The goals for evening worship and prayer meeting were also surpassed.

The Wayne Heights congregation is also celebrating its 25th year with the construction of badly needed Christian education facilities. "The building program has been good for the overall spirit of the church in that it has shown the people that they can do something if they really work together," Pastor Bates observed. The new facility was dedicated on May 23, 1976.

—Arden E. Gilmer

## Your Church Can Grow

To date, 48 Brethren churches have been introduced to growth principles and thinking through Church Growth Seminar One. This figure shows substantial progress toward our goal of every Brethren church experiencing the seminar this year.

Churches that have not yet had opportunity to participate in a seminar are encouraged to schedule one for the fall by contacting me at 530 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.

Remember, your church can grow . . . if it wants to grow, if it will pay the price for growth, and if it will apply growth principles.

Ed. note—Lest it seem that church growth is just an expression, a preliminary summary of the 1975 statistics shows that there were weekly averages of 675 more in Sunday school and 979 more in Brethren Church worship services in 1975! This is even more significant in view of a membership decrease of 124 from the adjusted 1974 membership total. Such attendance shows growth where it can be seen and measured.

Incidentally, our congregations received by conversion 695 members (from church families and non-church people) while removing 626 by reversion (roll revision). There is a real correlation between conversions and attendance. Not included here are the gains and losses by transfer nor the losses by death. The Brethren Church is growing!

## Milledgeville: Enthusiastic Progress

How true that "time will tell" as we attempt to evaluate the Church Growth Seminar One held in Milledgeville, Ill., March 26-28 of this year. Dr. Fred Burkey, as usual, was "up" for the seminar and really stimulated some interesting conversation and activity. We were especially pleased that 32 members of the congregation were involved in the seminar, and this included most of the official arm of the congregation.

Our church location fits into the "small community" category, and it would be very easy for us to be completely satisfied with "holding our own." We do not anticipate tremendous community growth in coming years—not in Milledgeville and not even in the county. But even in view of this, **we still anticipate church growth**, and the church growth seminar helped us to realize this potential.

For instance, we have seen steady, though slow, growth in recent years. This is especially true of attendance. New people are becoming involved in the church. Due to the outreach of our radio program, "Brethren Moments," and extensive advertising, the influence of our church is being felt outside of the immediate community. The people are excited about this.

In preparation for the seminar, 64 people completed "Church Attitude Questionnaires." Of these only 3 expressed an attitude of "limited" potential for growth, and no one registered "poor" potential.

The seminar also opened to us another bit of exciting information. (We should have known it before, but we didn't.) Of the active, resident people of our church, 40 percent are between the ages of 20 and 45 years; over 80 percent are under age 64. We have a young church!

We do have potential, and the people were made aware of it. We set some goals. They are not at

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See more growth news on  
pages 10 and 11.

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all sensational, but they do call for an attendance increase in worship and Sunday school of approximately 60 percent over the next 5 years—conservative, but realistic.

We do need to knock down some obstacles if we are to reach these goals. As it now stands, we have no place for the people or their automobiles. In other words, we need a facility expansion program for worship and Christian education. So, here is where we began. The building committee has been working hard and is now in the final stages of putting together a plan to meet our needs. We have a task force standing by for now but ready to leap into action as the physical problems are overcome.

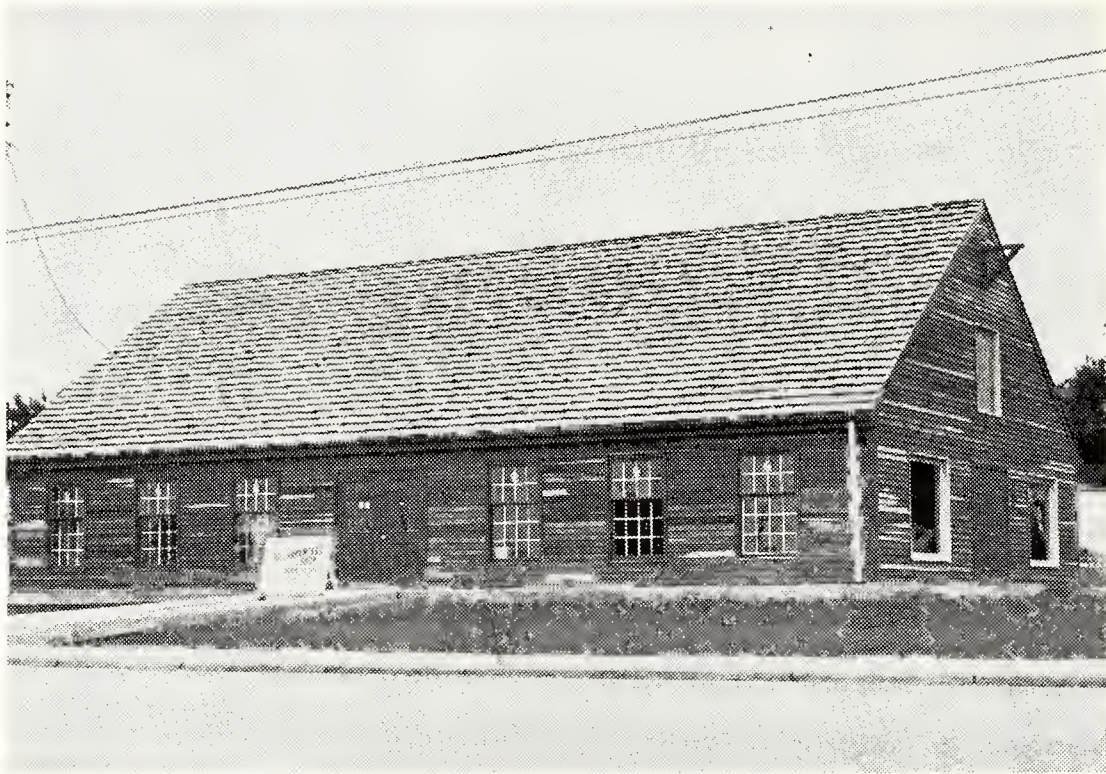
We appreciate the efforts of those involved in Brethren Church growth. We are happy to be counted as one of you. It is God's will that His church grow. Watch us!

—Jim Black, pastor  
Milledgeville Brethren Church



# UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church  
and the Evangelical Press Association



Staff Photo

*The Carpenter's Shop*

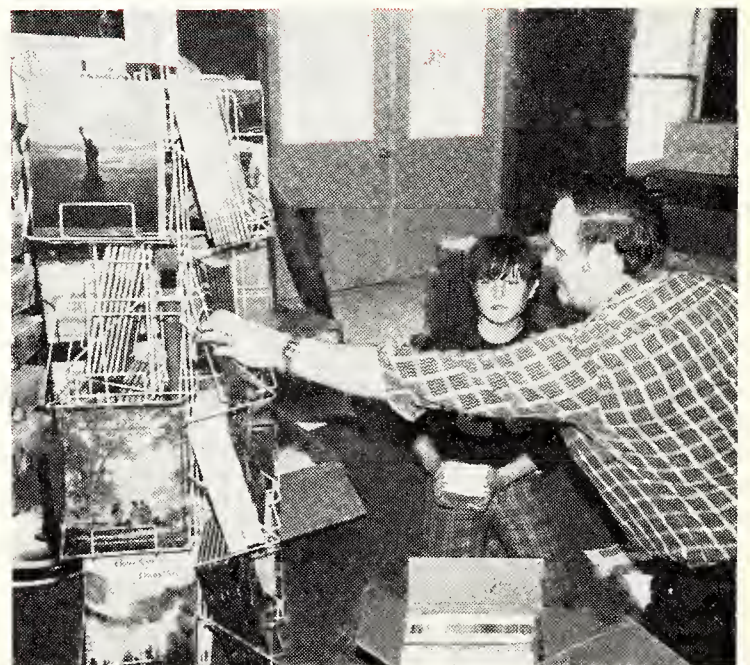
## Carpenter's Shop Opens for Business

**Ashland, Ohio**—The Carpenter's Shop opened for business on Thursday, June 10. Moving and set-up were completed during the two days prior to the opening with the assistance of a host of volunteers.

Located at 709 Claremont Ave. (to the rear of the Brethren Publishing Company building), the Carpenter's Shop replaces the former Brethren Bookstore.

Moving began on Monday morning, June 7. Volunteer help included members and friends of the Ashland Park Street church, staff members of several denominational organizations, and patrons of the store. The major portion of the move was completed by 8:30 that evening. Tuesday was spent in final preparation of the store for business.

A special grand opening is planned for the week of General Conference, Aug. 9 to 13.



Staff Photo

*Billy and Bill Wing were only two of the many volunteers from the Ashland area who helped in moving to the new store.*

### Other Update Items:

- Contact (p. 15)
- News and Events (pp. 16-17)
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## Fred Vanator: Cover Story



### Pastoral News

**Alvin Grumbling**, from Newark, Ohio, to Flora, Ind., July 1.

**Paul Steiner**, from Lanark, Ill., to a team ministry with his wife Donna at the Union Bridge Church of the Brethren in Maryland, Sept. 1.

### GERALD ZOOK ORDAINED AT FLORA; BEGINS MINISTRY AT UDELL

**Flora, Ind.**—First Brethren Church here was the site of the ordination of Gerald D. Zook to the ministry on June 6. Rev. Zook is the new pastor of the Udell, Iowa, Brethren Church.

Rev. Zook's wife, Joy, was consecrated as the wife of an elder during the service.

Rev. and Mrs. Zook and their four children moved to Udell during the week following the ordination to assume the pastoral responsibilities there.

### NAPPANEE ORDAINS RANDY BEST TO MINISTRY

**Nappanee, Ind.**—The First Brethren Church here was the site of the ordination of Randal Best to the ministry on June 13. Rev. Best graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary the day before.

Rev. Best's wife, Karen, was set aside as the wife of an elder during the service.

Rev. and Mrs. Best reside in North Fairfield, Ohio, with their two sons where they serve the United Church of that town.

### BURLINGTON ORDAINS DEACON, DEACONESS

**Burlington, Ind.**—Mr. and Mrs. Allen Stout were ordained as deacon and deaconess of the Brethren church here on May 2.

Rev. Fred Vanator was featured in the Father's Day issue of the **Windmill Turns** as the oldest father living in Sarasota's Windmill Village Park. The village has nearly 1,000 residents.

The cover photo, appearing here, was presented to the Sarasota church by Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Brown.

Now 91 and retired, Rev. Vanator lives with his daughter, Mrs. Esther Mohler. After retiring, he helped found, and he pastored, the First Brethren Church of Sarasota, Fla. He is presently pastor emeritus of the church.

Rev. Vanator is a graduate of Ashland College and Seminary and was called to the ministry by the Warsaw, Ind., church in 1919. During his active ministry he also pastored churches in Canton and Fremont, Ohio, and Peru, Ind. In 1941 he became managing editor for the Brethren Publishing Company and later was named editor of publications, serving in both roles for 12 years.

He has also been active in other areas of denominational ministry. Upon completion of his last term as a member of the Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church he was named a life member and president emeritus. In addition he served two terms as moderator of the Ohio Conference.

Correspondence may be addressed to Rev. Vanator at 3826 Guilder St., Windmill Village, Sarasota, FL 33580.

### Goldenaires

**Mr. & Mrs. Node Doggett**, 68th, May 23. Members of the Ashland, Ohio, First church.

### In Memory

**Virgil Christener, Sr.**, 76, Mar. 17. Member of the Elkhart, Ind., First church. Funeral by Dale P. RuLon, pastor.

**Frank Hinkle**, Mar. 23. Member of the Mt. Olive church in Virginia. Services by Stephen Abe, pastor.

**Melva Kirky**, 82, Apr. 22. Member of the Elkhart First church. Funeral by Dale P. RuLon, pastor.

**Amzie Miller**, 73, Apr. 4. Member of the Elkhart First church. Services by Dale P. RuLon, pastor.

**Ethel Robbins**, 79, Jan. 4. Member of the Elkhart First church. Funeral by Dale P. RuLon, pastor.

**Belle Roboken**, 82, Mar. 19. Member of the Elkhart First church. Services by Dale P. RuLon, pastor.

## contact

*keeping Brethren in touch*



## Central Council to Present Recommendations

Ashland, Ohio—As a part of its annual report to General Conference, the Central Council will be presenting four recommendations for action. The recommendations are printed here for perusal before Conference week.

**Recommendation 1:** That each General Conference theme be in effect from Annual Conference to the following Annual Conference.

**Recommendation 2:** That the Conference Officers, Board and Committee personnel serve from one Annual Conference through the following Annual Conference while financial and other statistical matters continue to be kept and reported on a calendar year basis.

**Recommendation 3:** That Chapter 2, Sect. II, Art. 6, D (2), of the Manual of Procedure be amended to read, "All delegates shall pay a Conference fee of six dollars each. These fees shall be paid to the Treasurer, and if not paid during the sessions of Conference, shall be collected afterwards by him."

**Recommendation 4:** That one dollar of the delegate fee be retained for use of General Conference and that the remaining five dollars of the delegate fee be used to share the financial burden and encourage representation of churches distant from the General Conference location through a travel subsidy based upon mileage by car by the most direct routing, such allocation to be based upon funds available, administered by the Conference Membership Committee, and coordinated through the office of the General Conference Executive Secretary.

The intent of the first two recommendations is to return the Conference theme and the term of office of personnel to a Conference year basis.

Recommendations 3 and 4 deal with implementing the approval of an increase in delegate fees to assist those who must travel a great distance at greater personal expense than most in order to attend Conference each year. Approval of these recommendations was given at the last session of the 1975 General Conference. However, they could not be enacted because the Manual of Procedure requires two sessions for amendments.

The Ohio District Board of Christian Education is now receiving applications for the position of District Camp and Youth Director. This is a full-time position and involves district youth work, planning of the camping program, serving as camp agent, and maintenance of camp property.

Interested persons may secure applications from Rev. Gene Hollinger (Box 8, Gratis, Ohio 45330). Deadline for the return of the applications is Aug. 1, 1976.

## DELEGATES' NAMES NEEDED PRIOR TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

Ashland, Ohio—John Rowsey has asked Brethren churches to remember to send him the names of their delegates to General Conference as soon as they are selected.

Delegates will receive a personalized souvenir badge upon registration at Conference. However, to speed processing at the registration tables, as many of the badges as possible will be prepared prior to General Conference week.

The names of "definitely committed delegates" should be sent to: Delegates, Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

## Errata

In the June issue we listed Rev. Glenn "Doc" Shank as author of the article "The Witness to Another Way" (p. 10). The article was in fact written by Rev. Keith Bennett, pastor of the First Brethren Church of South Bend, Ind. We regret that proper credit was not given.

Also, a book recommended in "Making Disciples" (p. 12) in the May issue was given incorrectly. Gary Kuhne's book is properly titled **The Art of Personal Follow-up**, not **The Art of Personal Fellowship**.

## Calendar of Events

**JULY 4**—Day of Worship and Thanksgiving (NAE Emphasis); Bicentennial Offering Sunday; Peace Sunday.

**JULY 16-17**—Central Dist. Conference, Waterloo.

**JULY 22-24**—Pennsylvania Conf., Camp Peniel.

**AUGUST 9-13**—1976 General Conference, Ashland.

**SEPTEMBER 7-23**—Regional Pastors' Consultations.

**SEPTEMBER 23-25**—Southeast Conference, Massanetta Springs.



## 1976 Newswriters' Workshop

Want to learn how to receive hundreds of dollars worth of free promotion in your community each year? What church wouldn't?

Free promotion of your local church and its activities is available through your local media if you use the proper techniques in reporting newsworthy events. Unfortunately, most churches do not know how best to tap this resource.

The 1976 Newswriters' Workshop at General Conference will guide your church reporter in bridging the gap with the local media (particularly the newspaper).

The workshop will be practical. Three seminar sessions will acquaint participants with:

- The Elements of a Newsstory
- Steps in Reporting
- Interviewing
- The Human Interest Story
- Photographs
- And more!

Participants will also be given reporting assignments to cover certain events of General Conference and to write and submit a newsstory on each for evaluation.

The seminar sessions will be held on Monday (4:00-5:30 p.m.), Wednesday (1:30-3:00 p.m.), and Friday (8:00-9:00 a.m.).

Your church should have at least one representative participating in this training event. Send participants' names, addresses, and church name to:

Newswriters' Workshop  
Brethren Publishing Company  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

A \$5.00 registration fee (covering supplies and resource people) will be received at the first session.

NOTE: This training would also be applicable in reporting local events of denominational interest to the Brethren Evangelist.

### CAMPER, TRAILER FACILITIES FOR CONFERENCE

**Ashland, Ohio**—Permission has been granted for use of the Ashland County Fairgrounds again for campers and trailers. Water and electrical hookups and dumping facilities will be available. The rate will again be \$3.00 per day.

If interested in securing a site, contact Mr. Claude Wheeler on the grounds or across Claremont Avenue at Westview Mobile Estates or call 289-3013.

The fairgrounds are located on Claremont Avenue, southwest of Ashland College.

### STATIONS ADD "BRETHREN HOUR" TO BROADCAST SCHEDULES

**Sarasota, Fla.**—"The Brethren Hour," a radio ministry of the First Brethren Church here, is now heard in parts of four Great Plains states with the addition of two stations in June.

Areas of Texas and Oklahoma hear the program on KOLJ, Quanah, Tex., while parts of Missouri and Kansas receive the program from KSIS, Sedalia, Mo.

Stations in Wabash and Huntington-Columbia City, Ind., Ashland, Ohio, and Altoona, Pa., also carry the weekly broadcast in addition to four Florida Gulf Coast stations.

### Help Us Avoid Duplicates

As you know from a news item in the May issue (p. 22), we are in the process of compiling a master mailing list on our new addressing equipment. This list will be mechanically coded for mailing the Brethren Evangelist, Insight into Brethren Missions, Pastors' Paragraphs, and other mailings of each of the denominational boards.

We are exercising great care to avoid duplicates as we enter the address lists of the various boards. However, some duplicates may slip in over the next several months.

You can exercise good stewardship by returning duplicated addresses or copies of them. If the labels are different, please indicate the one you prefer we use, and we will make the corrections.

The labels should be returned to: The Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805, ATT: John Rowsey.

Your cooperation is most appreciated.

—Publishing Company Staff



New Addresses, Phone Numbers, for Church Offices

Ashland, Ohio—With the move of the Brethren Bookstore to the Carpenter's Shop in early June, the Brethren Publishing Company building was redesigned to include additional office space for the company and room for the Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church.

The east third of the first floor now includes the offices of Brethren Publishing Company Executive Director John Rowsey and Managing Editor Ron Waters. The west third contains Publishing Company Bookkeeper Marceal Zimmerman's office and that of Dorman Ronk, Executive Secretary of the Benevolent Board. Bev Summy, office secretary of the Benevolent Board, is located in the center section of the old bookstore. A common meeting room is also located in that central location. Beth Gilmer, agent for the sale of Sunday School literature, is relocated in the basement of the building.

As a result of the move, the Benevolent Board's new telephone number is (419) 289-2202. Their address is now 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.

The Carpenter's Shop, at 709 Claremont Ave., has exclusive use of the 289-0325 number. Calls to the Brethren Publishing Company for all other business (including Sunday School orders, job printing, the Brethren Evangelist and Quarterly,

and administration) should be dialed to (419) 289-2611.

The offices of the Board of Christian Education, Central Council, and Missionary Board have remained in their previous locations and have retained the same addresses and telephone numbers.

Those who attend General Conference in August are encouraged to visit the new offices as well as the Carpenter's Shop during the week.

ANNUAL CORPORATION MEETING

The annual corporation meeting of the Brethren Publishing Company will be held Tuesday, Aug. 10, 1976, during the 10:30 a.m. business session of the General Conference of the Brethren Church. The meeting will be held in the Myers Convocation Center, Ashland College, Ashland, Ohio.

Delegates to the General Conference constitute the membership of the corporation.

—W. St. Clair Benshoff, President

BEFORE YOU MOVE ... please let us know.

1. Give old address

Name

Address

City State Zip

2. Fill in new address below:

Name

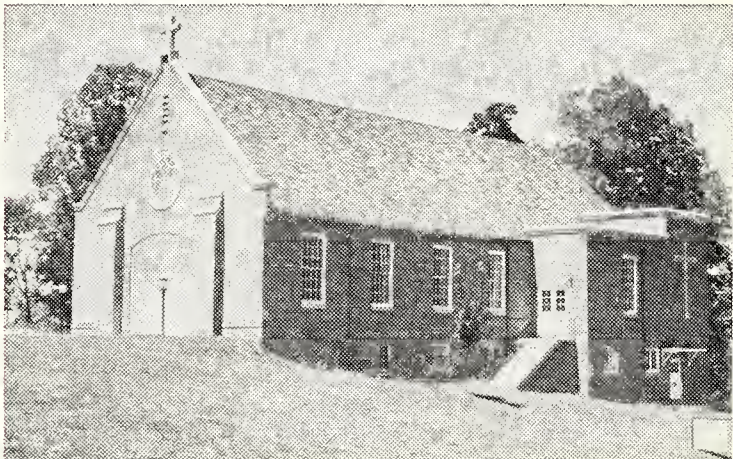
Address

City State Zip

Date new address in effect

3. Mail this form to:

Address Correction  
Brethren Publishing Company  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, OH 44805



While in Washington, D.C., this year, visit

WASHINGTON BRETHREN CHURCH  
Corner of Branch & Q Street, S.E.

Sunday services:  
10, 11, and 7:15

Wednesday evening:  
7:30

For further information or assistance, write:

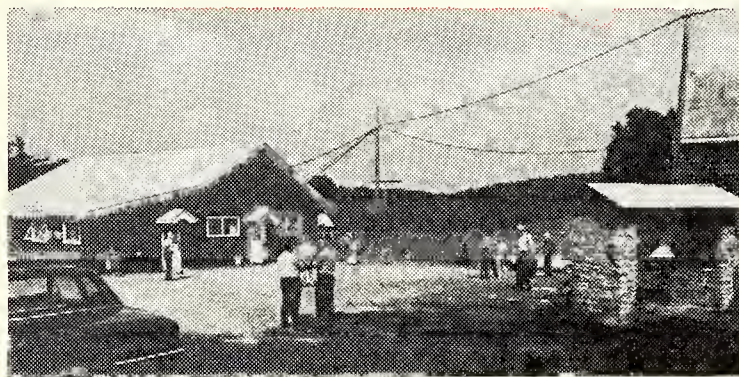
Pastor Bob Keplinger  
Washington Brethren Church  
3140 Q Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020



# **Pennsylvania District Conference**

## **July 22-24, 1976**

**Camp Peniel**  
**Meyersdale, Pa.**



**Theme: Brethren Heritage of Hope**

### **Don't Miss:**

#### **Vice Moderator's Address**

Rev. Norman Long  
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

#### **Moderator's Address**

Rev. Charles Berkshire  
Friday, 9:00 a.m.

#### **Laymen's Service**

Mr. Harry Beal  
Friday, 8:00 p.m.

#### **Inspirational Hour**

Star of David Singers  
Saturday, 1:30 p.m.

**Devotions and special music  
from district churches**

### **Also: Youth Conference**

**Arden Gilmer, Director**

***See you at Peniel!***



# book reviews

## "Jack Sprat Could Eat No . . ."

**How to Win at Losing** by Zola Levitt (Tyndale, 1976, 116 pp., \$1.45).

"Eating wrongly is a matter of conforming to this world and denying that we can forego temptation. It's a doubting of the power of God, in whose perfect image we are all made." This assertion, coupled with the moans of our bathroom scale, made me decide to try once again to lose some weight.

I hate dieting. In the past I have tried starving—for a few days—and concluded it was better to be fat. I've counted calories—and developed an intense dislike for lettuce, tuna fish, and other "filler" foods. I've even tried exercising and got hungrier than ever.

Nevertheless, in January 1976, weighing in at 196½ and standing 5 feet 9½ inches tall, I realized that I was nearly a foot under-height. About that time, I read Levitt's book in which he recounted his own struggles with weight control.

Written in a delightfully humorous, down-to-earth style, this book presents proper nutrition as a theological problem. The essence of his message is that we're fat because we eat the wrong things. "The food from the earth hasn't changed; but we prepare it badly, and we don't walk it off anymore." Carbohydrates are killing us! Sugar was

largely unknown in older times but is now in everything. "If it isn't sweet, it isn't good!" The food processors are getting rich; Americans are getting fat. We buy artificial foods to meet artificial needs created by clever advertisers.

Levitt's thesis is that the human body is not constructed to process the volume of carbohydrates ingested by most Americans. Carbohydrates are energy-producing foods, which, if not used, are stored as fat. Thus, he advocates the temporary elimination of carbohydrates until the body is acclimatized and the maintenance of a low carbohydrate diet.

It should be noted that all three basic food groups—fats, carbohydrates, and proteins—should be present in your diet. We get fat because we eat an improper proportion of those three. Bad eating is usually just a bad habit. I love snacks in the evening!

Finally, Levitt recommends running as ideal exercise. I haven't yet been motivated to do any jogging, but I have lost 32½ pounds and have kept it off by following the low carbohydrate diet.

Before trying this weight loss approach, it would be best to check with your physician, especially if you have some health or dietary problems. It worked for me. I recommend this little book for all Christians living "beyond their seams!"

—Fred Burkey, Ashland, Ohio

### A Touch of Wonder

**A Touch of Wonder** by Arthur Gordon (Spire Books, 1976, 224 pp., \$1.75).

**A Touch of Wonder** is an excellent title for this book by Arthur Gordon. It is a collection of short reflective pieces, averaging five pages in length, that somehow manage to show the true wonder in the small encounters of life.

The subjects are simple things—the death of a pet, a young man's idealistic ambitions, old letters from an attic, a wedding by the seashore, a shooting star—things that certainly couldn't be called "important" in our hectic, greedy world. But maybe the truth is that these little bits of wisdom and caring are the things that really **are** important.

Mr. Gordon's style is stimulating, yet comfortable; his descriptions are fresh and clear; his themes are poignant in their simplicity. It all makes you wonder how, for all this time, you could have been blind to the simple beauty that he sees so clearly.

I recommend this book to both men and women, not for "deep" reading, but for those times when you need to slow down, shift your focus, and rediscover a little bit of joy or a touch of wonder.

—Norma Waters, Ashland, Ohio

### To Make You Crafty

**Easy to Make Crafts for Children Ages 3 to 11** and **Easy to Make Crafts for Preteens and Youth**, each compiled by Dolores Rowen (Regal, 1976, 48 pp., \$2.50 each).

If you have no artistic ability but find yourself volunteering for child-oriented activities or a craft time for youth or a nursing home, these books are for you.

The author approaches each project with detailed instructions which equip the instructor or parent with confidence and a positive attitude before entering the craft.

I believe the projects were selected with economy and simplicity in mind. Also the time element involved was considered, with instructions for preparation of materials in advance of actual work time. Thus, the young artist will not be so apt to lose enthusiasm for his project.

Along with a special craft for nearly every holiday, there are clever ideas for everyday use. Many items can be completed with materials found right in the home, putting these books in the category of rainy day and instantaneous success books. They would be a real plus for Mom in the eyes of a little one.

—Ann DeVeney, Ashland, Ohio



## SEEKING A NEW PASTOR

by Smith Rose

The most significant decision a congregation makes in the area of leadership is the choice of a new pastor. Many factors are considered, such as experience, training, gifts and abilities, age, family, reputation, and salary and benefits expected. But as vital as these may be, the most important factor is: "Is this man God's choice as undershepherd for our congregation at this time in its life and witness?"

Most Brethren congregations use some type of pastoral search committee. It may be a regular committee—pulpit or pastoral relations—or one chosen specifically for this purpose. It is a most responsible position to be part of this search committee.

Where should this committee look, and to whom should it turn? Recognizing the vital spiritual nature of their task, they should first and continually, individually and as a committee, seek earnestly the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Likewise, they should encourage the members of the congregation to support them in this endeavor through prayer.

Since the committee is usually made up of people who are busy with the affairs of everyday life, the temptation is very strong to quickly employ someone to fill the position. Such a completely human decision can be tragic in the life of both congregation and pastor, for it so often results in a mismatch.

This is a time of real spiritual battle. God desires for the church the undershepherd best fitted to lead them in personal spiritual growth and to bring them forward in Christian maturity and witness. At the same time, Satan seeks to direct the church toward a relationship which would at best just keep the doors open but bring no vital growth or witness. God will not lead a con-

gregation into a wrong choice, but He must be allowed to lead if a wrong choice is to be avoided.

Following the initial prayer preparation, the committee should determine what their church expects from a pastor. Frequently I am asked to supply the names of possible candidates, but rarely am I given any indication as to what is expected or desired in terms of leadership. Unless this is clearly stated, neither the pastor nor the congregation will have a commonly accepted way of evaluating his ministry.

It would be helpful for the committee and the congregation to study carefully Ephesians 4:11-12 to see the scriptural role of the pastor-teacher. (Compare some of the newer versions for a clearer understanding of the meaning of this passage.) The pastor-teacher is "to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining the full measure of perfection found in Christ" (New International New Testament). Are your pastoral expectations in line with this?

Finally, when your committee arrives at some decision as to what is desired in a pastor, you may wish to seek outside help. The Central Council office maintains a file of resumes of pastors and graduating seminary students. We can supply these resumes and can even serve as intermediary to ascertain interest, expectations of the candidate, his salary requirements, and so forth. We can also share with you further printed material on seeking a new pastor.

Are you willing to spend time in prayer seeking God's leading? Are you willing to bring your expectations in line with the scriptures? Will you seriously work with the congregation to ascertain the kind of pastor you should seek? Are you willing to seek outside assistance in your search? If so, you can anticipate the reality of the Holy Spirit's leading and know your choice is God's choice.

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*Smith Rose is the executive secretary of the Central Council of the Brethren Church.*

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Child (watching his father prepare his Sunday sermon): Daddy, does God tell you what you should say?

Father: He surely does. Why do you ask?

Child: Then, why do you scratch some of it out?  
(from Ardmore church newsletter)



## Strategy for Growth in Argentina

*Juan Carlos Miranda is developing the Latin American Church Growth Department of the Fuller Evangelistic Association under the sponsorship of the Missionary Board.*

*by Juan Carlos Miranda*

During the days of September 1 to 3 the pastors and laymen of the "Gran Rosario" area in Argentina gathered at the Eden Bible Institute at Soldini for a church growth workshop. Their great "Projection of Faith" was a goal of a 580 percent increase by 1979. This statistic covers 8 denominations and 20 churches represented.

So far the reader may ask himself, "What is so different between this workshop and the rest?" But there is a very vivid difference. This "Projection of Faith" will be backed by a united campaign in November 1976 with Evangelist Luis Palau and his team. (Luis Palau is the Latin American Billy Graham.)

A good number of pastors, workers, and churches have been working already for several months in the preparation of the "Plan Rosario." The goal is not the crusade itself, but it is the conservation of the results of this evangelistic campaign.

All of this made our workshop different. The brethren that participated in lectures and who shared with all those present never overlooked the advantages that this united crusade will bring for church growth and the salvation of souls in this area of South America.

Dr. Vergil Gerber, executive director of the Evangelical Missions Information Service (EMIS), and Edward Murphy, then with Overseas Crusades, were the special speakers. Ray Aspinall,

teacher at the Eden Bible Institute, Edgardo Silvos, coordinator for the Luis Palau team, and myself took advantage of the presentations and individual work to emphasize the blessings that this harvest could mean if this crusade is channeled and used for church growth.

The new converts will be related to the congregations right away and while the crusade is going on. New congregations sponsored by the "mother churches" will have the opportunity to be "silos" for the new harvest.

It is neither overestimating nor daydreaming to anticipate not only to reach, but to surpass, that goal. Everything is depending on the united effort and not on an individual effort. Here we need to have expansion growth (the new believers coming to the congregations) and also extension growth (new congregations being formed).

Naturally, this church growth workshop was characterized by its spiritual emphasis. We believe that the faith projection was directed by the Holy Spirit and that God will supply in a wonderful way—where human limitations may fail, even where our weaknesses persist—in an effort such as the one planned in this workshop.

We had set both biblical and theological bases in our workshop. It will not be possible to think about evangelism and church growth unless we have those bases. **God's Way to Keep a Church Going and Growing**, written by Dr. Gerber, was a very useful tool, besides the fact that it will become a consultation book from now on.

The efforts made so far were analyzed and the testimonies of those who have already begun using some of these principles showed that many are getting results. This is the case in some churches where they are having as many as seven Bible study groups which are in the process of becoming smaller congregations, getting ready for the great harvest of 1976.

Plans are being made already for a second workshop for September 1976. This new encounter will help to evaluate what has been done during this year of work and at the same time give the final touches to that which, with God's help, will be a reality—the crusade with Luis Palau.

One goal unites us: to win and retain the results of this crusade. We know that God wants it, and this workshop has shown us that most of the leaders of the "Gran Rosario" want it too. Now we have to keep on going forward so that the church will grow and God's name will be glorified.



Photo by Juan Carlos Miranda

*The church growth workshop was held at the Eden Bible Institute in Soldini near Rosario.*



## Outreach through Workshops

Two Brethren House team members, Phil and Bonnie, conducted a month-long workshop tour in April and May, taking the teaching/learning ideas we have discovered at Brethren House to several churches in the North. We held workshops in 11 churches, with 5 hours of instruction in 2 sessions. These were held in Presbyterian, Methodist, and Christian churches, primarily, with stops at the Bryan Brethren Church and at Ashland Theological Seminary. Our trip covered 4,000 miles with stops in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Alabama.

The responses to the workshops were most gratifying, and we feel the Lord used these experiences to touch many teachers and renew them in their efforts to communicate His message effectively. Because the Brethren Church helps make these good things possible, we would like to share some of the teachers' comments with you.

—"I came away refreshed and revitalized and rededicated to teaching because of your enthusiasm which is contagious and because of the great wealth of learning and teaching ideas. This

has been one of the most practical workshops I've ever attended."

—"It was a time of evaluation of my teaching, and learning better ways to express and find the needs of children."

—"I've learned new and exciting ways to present the love of Jesus Christ."

—"One never tires of this source of new information but especially appreciated the direct Christian, moral, or Biblical emphasis placed on each teaching idea."

—"I've been reminded that each child is an individual with different needs and deserves more special attention to make the child aware of God's love and your love for him."

—"Many ideas have been triggered—I think it will have a lasting effect on how I approach working with children."

—"Seeing ways to make Christian education come alive in the classroom was most helpful."

—"I learned that the child is very important, and that everything should be built around his needs—that the faith is most effectively communicated that way."



*A group of teachers talk to Bonnie Munson about setting up a learning center.*

Photo by Phil Lersch

### Grieves Return

The Jerry Grieves who have been working under Wycliffe Translators, Inc., in Nigeria finished their second term of service on June 3. They have been heavily involved in workshops and in translating the Scriptures into the newly written Kilba language. Upon their return to the States, Jerry and Cheryl will be flying to their home in Kansas with their three young children, Dawn, Nicole, and Seth. There is a possibility they will do some limited deputation.

They will not be continuing with lit-lit work in Nigeria and will be looking toward a new ministry. Your prayers for the Grieves in this transition period will truly be appreciated.

### New Daughter

The Missionary Board has been informed of the birth of a baby daughter to Rev. and Mrs. K. Vijaya Kumar in the first part of June. Vijaya and his wife Sujatha work in the Visakhapatnam area for Brethren missions in India.





## Retirement at 65 Wasteful

by Harold Blumenfeld

Why was the number "65" picked for the time when physically active and mentally competent men and women would be retired from their jobs?

Probably because the United States chose as a model the Prussian Army which 100 years ago retired its older officers at 65 to make way for younger men. But the Prussians kept the older soldiers around for other active duty.

If that was a universal mandatory number, think of what the world would have lost if these people had been forced into retirement:

Arturo Toscanini was conducting symphony orchestras when he was 87. Pablo Casals practiced daily on his cello for his concert appearances until he died at 96. Giuseppe Verdi composed the last of his many operas, "Falstaff," at 80, and continued writing music at 85. And piano virtuoso Arthur Rubinstein attended an 88th birthday party while preparing for a concert tour.

Tito and Mao governed Yugoslavia and China while in their eighties. Konrad Adenauer retired at 87 after serving 14 years as Chancellor of West Germany. North Vietnam President Ho Chi Minh died in office at 79, and Charles DeGaulle retired as President of France before his 80th birthday. Winston Churchill became Great Britain's Prime Minister at age 66, and Victoria reigned as Queen of the British Empire until she died at 82. David Ben-Gurion resigned at age 87 after serving 15 years as Prime Minister of Israel, and Golda Meier retired at 75 after five years in that position.

And there were more who never quit at 65:

Michelangelo, though he had stopped painting, served as chief architect of the Vatican until his death at 89. American primitive painter Grandma Moses produced much of her work shortly before she died at 101, and Picasso was still painting when death claimed him at 91.

Lord Tennyson and Victor Hugo produced some of their important writings when they were in their eighties. Anita Loos, author of **Gentlemen Prefer Blondes**, at 80 recently completed her auto-

biography. Jack Benny died at 81 as he was preparing a nightclub tour and a starring role in a movie, and Harry Hirschfield was active as a toastmaster and storyteller until he passed away at 91.

Oliver Wendell Holmes served in the United States Supreme Court for 29 years, retiring at 91, three years before his death. After Judge John Sirica conducted the Watergate trial, he celebrated his 70th birthday.

Nobel Prize winner Albert Schweitzer worked in his hospital at Lambarene before his death at 90. Bernard M. Baruch continued as adviser to presidents and government officials until he died at 95. Thomas A. Edison was developing new inventions until his death at 85, and Henry Ford at 84 actively controlled his auto company.

Casey Stengel brought the New York Yankees 10 pennants in 12 years and then managed the Mets for three more years before retiring at 74. Connie Mack directed the Philadelphia Athletics for 39 successive years, winning 11 pennants and a World Series before retiring at 88.

At 81, Martha Graham teaches choreography and makes occasional public dancing appearances. Sally Rand, now past 70 and a grandmother, recently received \$1,500 for a week's appearance in a nightclub and planned 40 more weeks repeating her famous fan dance of the 1930s. Early in 1975 Mae West was cheered when she was introduced at a theatrical lunch in Hollywood. At 81 maybe she's still the "Sex Symbol" for the "Geriatric Generation."

A present federal law prohibits job discrimination between the ages of 40 and 65. But Representative Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Equal Opportunity Subcommittee, began holding public hearings early in 1976 on bills which would prohibit all mandatory retirements. One such bill introduced by Representative Paul Findley (R-Ill.), who is a youthful 54, has 40 cosponsors.

All this will be too late for those of us who have already been retired unwillingly. But if and when such new legislation is passed by Congress, just think how our country, our communities, and maybe even the world will be enriched by the hard work and late-budding genius of those who someday will be blowing out 65 candles on their birthday cakes.

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# 65?



# Creative Ministry with the Aging

Excerpts from addresses presented to the third annual assembly of the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging.

**Dr. Rose Butler Brown, President**  
**The Women's Department**  
**Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.**  
**Providence, Rhode Island**

We can help people by giving some of the older people an opportunity to lead worship, or at least to participate.

The church can help older people to pray. You can learn to turn your focus off of yourself and talk to Him about other people, making intercessory prayer for help or consolation, for support, for assistance. "Try praying so that you can know what you need."

Elderly people can teach in the church. They can teach crafts, candlemaking, . . . all kinds of things they know how to do, to younger people. And they can have a one-woman or one-man show in the church, everybody coming in to look at what they have done and praising.

We can let them help take care of the church property—plant a bed of flowers, keep count of the hymnals, and disseminate the Sunday School literature.

The older people who are in reasonably good emotional health can serve as counselors, talking with people who would like to talk to an older person.

Another thing the church can do is have days on which we recognize people who have done work for the church.

**Dr. Roy Rodgers**  
**Research Director**  
**NICA R & D Project**

Both the Judaic and the Christian tradition are very much oriented toward seeing the congregation as a community of faith. I think this is a very critical issue for us in this time, for I think the experience of many of us has been to see the congregation in quite another way. And for the aging amongst us, this has left a real gap—for in the history of our experience that community of faith has been a very central place for them.

**Bernard E. Nash, Executive Director**  
**American Association of Retired Persons/**  
**National Retired Teachers Association**

Perhaps a major focus of the churches' efforts should be on those older persons who suffer from a poverty of meaning to their lives rather than a poverty of means. Dr. George A. Perera, a retired professor of medicine, has stated that sometimes he wishes his status would be called "refire-

ment" rather than "retirement," for, as he puts it, "I am still mobile, and my engine—though it misses a beat on occasion and emits some extraneous groans and grunts—still functions rather well." He believes in "patience in the present, faith in the future, and joy in the doing."

Mr. Nash has five points for our consideration.

1. Create a better image of the older American. It has been said that societies can be judged by their attitude toward the elderly. Arnold Toynbee argues that the lifespan of any civilization can be measured by the respect and care given its elderly citizens. Dr. Abraham Heschel, the late Jewish scholar and teacher, said, "The test of a people is how it behaves towards the old."

2. Develop more meaningful roles for older persons. Our society is youth-oriented. We're all trying to be members of the Pepsi generation. Not many of us are willing to admit we belong to the Geritol gang. The church, as well as the educational system, has an obligation to involve older persons in a positive, constructive way. How well are we carrying out that obligation? To what extent are our churches remembering our older parishioners and making use of their energies and their talents? Do our churches have programs that tend not to segregate the elderly, but to involve them with middle-aged and young persons? Do church members provide transportation for older persons who would otherwise not be able to attend religious services and social activities? To what extent are older persons serving on church boards and committees? And what about the seminaries? Are they taking cognizance of the needs and desires and abilities of older Americans? How much of the curriculum is concerned with the social, psychological, economic, and spiritual aspects of aging? Should the curriculum be revised to make greater use of the many studies of aging that are now available?

3. Need for retirement education. Certainly the church can play a very significant role in retirement education by arranging discussion groups or seminars, or by joining with others who have organized programs. We think there are six major areas that deserve full discussion. First, what will your **financial situation** be when you retire? Second, what are the **psychological impacts** of retirement? How can you adjust yourself mentally to a different way of life? Third, will you seek to **supplement your pension and the income you get**

*(continued on next page)*



from investments? If so, what kind of second career could you have? Fourth, what are the **legal and tax aspects** of retirement? What tax exemptions can you expect after age 65? What portion of your pension will be tax-exempt? Fifth, how can you **keep physically and mentally fit** in your later years? Sixth, to **what** are you retiring? Where will you live? How can you **spend your time usefully**, joyfully and creatively?

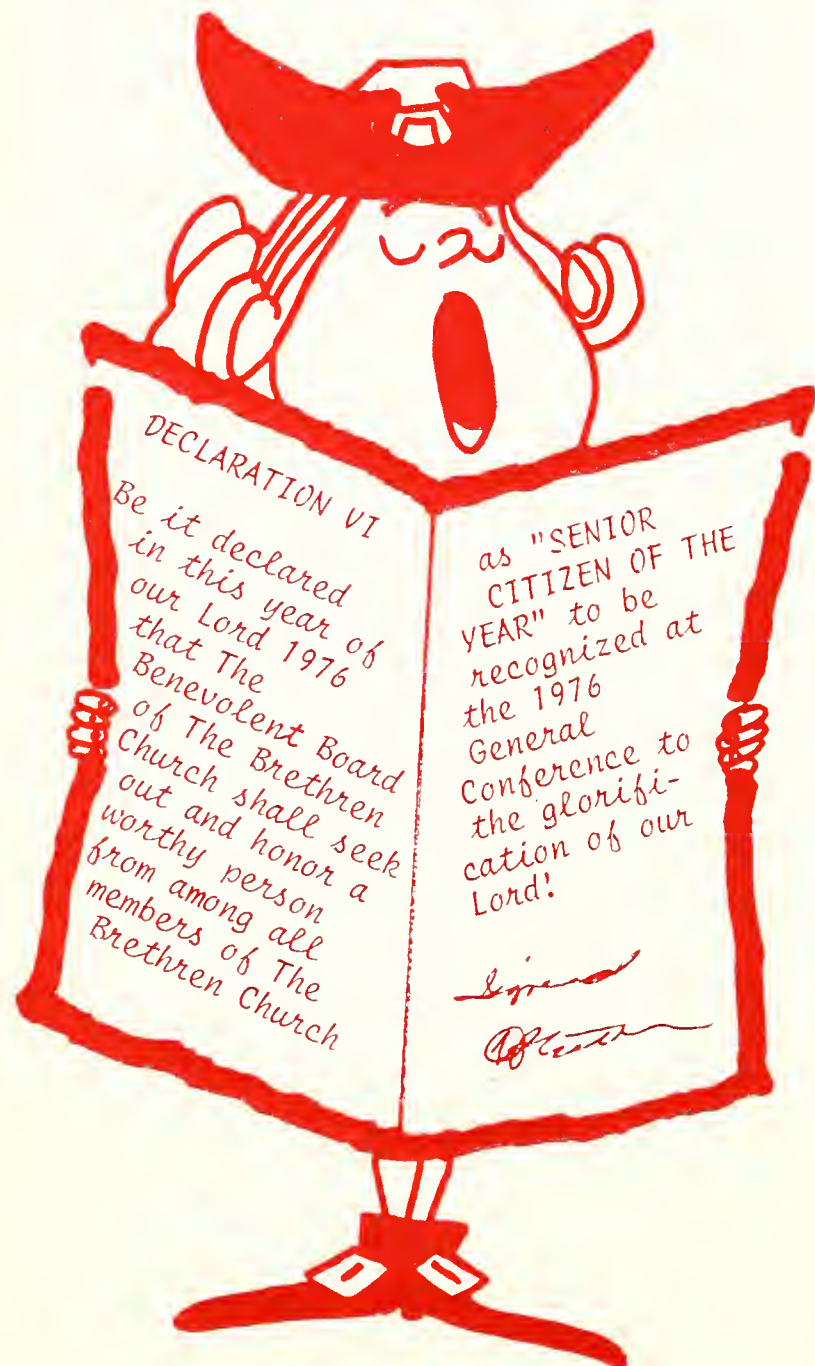
4. Need for more advocates in aging. By advocates, I mean those individuals who not only understand but also have a commitment to our older citizens. We need to be pragmatic; we need to define our goals very clearly; and we need to enlist the support of others who support this approach.

5. Seek to develop in our nation a greater un-

derstanding of the psychological needs of older persons. All of us need to receive **love**, otherwise, we wither away. We need a sense of **status** no matter what age we are. When I speak of a need for **security**, I have in mind both emotional and financial security. The fourth basic emotional need is that of **acceptance**. Finally, I come to our emotional and psychological need to have **new experiences**. Nicholas Murray Butler, the noted educator who guided Columbia University for many years, said the world can be divided into three groups: a small group that gets things done; a larger group that observes things are being done; and an even larger group that doesn't know anything is being done and couldn't care less.

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## benevolent care



## Last Chance!

July 15th is the deadline for submitting nominations for national consideration in the "Senior Citizen of the Year" program.

A number of local nominations have been received in the Benevolent Board office, but other congregations have yet to submit their nominees.

The Special Programs committee of the Benevolent Board has determined how the "Senior Citizen of the Year" will be honored. The presentation will be made during our "Heritage of Hope" Conference, August 9-13, 1976. When the final selection is made, the "Senior Citizen of the Year" and his church will be notified.

We have been gratified by the enthusiastic response to this program in the churches and look forward to honoring our "Senior Citizen of the Year" at General Conference.

Churches should send their nomination form to:

THE BENEVOLENT BOARD  
524 College Ave.  
Ashland, Ohio 44805



## World Relief at General Conference

### Visual Displays To Be in Convo

Meeting in the Convocation Center offers all our boards adequate space for informative displays. World Relief tables will feature:

(1) Slide pictures on a continuously-running projector. Interspersed will be identification slides to inform viewers what they are seeing.

(2) Snapshots on posters, with taped narrations to explain what you see at several centers—a “do-it-yourself” fact-finding experience.

(3) Sacks with 5 ounces of millet, the average daily ration in needy countries of the world.

### Film Preview

“Bangladesh — Darkness into Light” is the newest WRC film, picturing the Bengali people and their struggle for survival. I saw and photographed myself many of the same scenes pictured in this movie. We plan to have it running frequently during the week in the display area (16mm, sound, full color, 27 minutes — available at no charge to your churches).

### Sewing Displays

See and examine articles of clothing and nursing care items made by women in several of our churches. Get new ideas of needed things you can sew for:

World Relief  
Brethren Care  
Brethren's Home  
India Missions

### Sewing Workshop

Not only can you see completed sewn articles on display, but you can devote some free time to sewing projects yourself.

Everything you will need is provided — needles, thread, patterns, cloth, yarn, table space. Just bring your own time, interest, and patience! (And bring your own knitting needles and crochet hooks if you can.)

## World Relief Fasting Banquet

Thursday, August 12—5:30 p.m.  
Ashland College Cafeteria

### PROGRAM FEATURES:

- (1) **Dr. Clyde Taylor**, former director of National Association of Evangelicals and World Evangelical Fellowship and presently helping with World Relief Commission publicity, will bring a “WRC Update.”
- (2) **Phil Lersch** will share highlights of his World Relief trip to Asia last January.
- (3) **Preview of the film**, “Bangladesh—Darkness Into Light.”
- (4) **Very little food.**

The purpose is “Not to Feed You, but to Fill You . . .”

. . . with thanks for giving well done,  
. . . with greater compassion,  
. . . with meaningful information,  
. . . with increased dedication for the task,  
. . . with thanksgiving for what we have so abundantly.

A sliding donation scale is being considered. Take your pick:

\$4.00—Cost of previous All-Conference Banquets  
\$2.50—Cost of cafeteria evening meals  
\$1.50—Cost of past Soup Suppers  
\$0.00—Come anyway





## 1976 NATIONAL BRETHREN YOUTH CONVENTION

Now is the time to finalize your plans for the 1976 National Brethren Youth Convention. Great things are in store for all who attend, and we urge you to be among those who do. Following are some details that you need to know for this year's Bicentennial Convention.

The major part of the Youth Convention will be held in conjunction with the General Conference of the Brethren Church. Historical dramas, special Bible studies on Brethren doctrine and biblical passages, the musical "I Love America," and an old-fashioned ice cream social are only a part of the special activities that are planned. We will also have our business meetings as usual. Brethren youth are an important part of the Brethren Church today and tomorrow. This is the best year of all to show your colors and attend our convention.

Any young person may attend the 1976 National BYC Convention. The program, however, is designed specifically for youth in the Brethren Church (particularly those who are members of National BYC) who have completed seventh grade through college-age.

Youth attending the Convention will fall into one of three categories: delegates, alternates, or visitors. Delegates must have been registered members of National BYC prior to May 31, 1976. A delegate has the sole opportunity to vote and to present motions at the business sessions of the Convention and has the responsibility to attend all business sessions. All other youth who attend the Convention and who are currently registered members of National BYC shall be alternates. An alternate shall assume all the duties of a delegate in the event that a delegate is unable to serve. He or she has an obligation to attend all business sessions of the Convention. All youth not currently registered as members of National BYC shall be

visitors. A visitor may attend business sessions as an observer only.

Delegates, alternates, and visitors have an equal opportunity and responsibility to attend all other formal and informal activities of the Convention. Only youth who will bring with them a desire to grow in their faith and a spirit of cooperation and responsible action should be encouraged to attend.

Minimum age for delegates is completion of the 7th grade in 1976. Each local BYC will be allowed one junior high or senior high school delegate for every five registered BYC members or part thereof. In addition, registered college-age persons through age 22 may serve as at-large delegates.

### General Requirements

1. Youth who completed grades 7-11 in 1976 must have an adult sponsor at the Convention (limit —6 youth/sponsor!). These youth must live in convention facilities unless living with family or sponsor in other approved housing. Commuters living at home are excepted.
2. All youth shall abide by the rules of conduct adopted by the National BYC Council and the Board of Christian Education. Conduct befitting a Christian will be expected; deviations may result in dismissal from the Convention.
3. Youth shall participate in all program activities, except in special cases when clearance is received from Convention officials.
4. The National BYC Constitution and Bylaws will serve as the standard for conduct of business.
5. A Convention fee of \$5.00 shall be paid upon arrival at the Convention and prior to room registration.

*(continued on next page)*

Are you proud to be a member of National BYC? If so, display your colors! This year at the National Brethren Youth Convention we are making available Brethren Youth Identity bookmarks, car window decals, coffee mugs, key chains, and T-shirts. All items will carry the new BYC emblem!

Join forces with the rest of our youth and proudly show that you are a member of this organization. All these items would make excellent gifts, as well as being great for your own use, all at reasonable prices. For more preview information, write:

Brethren Youth Identity Gifts  
Board of Christian Education  
524 College Ave.  
Ashland, OH 44805





*Craig Brown*



*Stephen Barber*



*Joan McKinney*



*Jeannie Hesketh*

## Summer Crusaders—Part 1

From Linwood, Md. to Manteca, Calif., 40 young men and women of the Brethren Church are serving Christ in a unique way this summer. They are part of the 1976 Summer Crusader program, sponsored by the National Board of Christian Education, and are a vital instrument in the youth program of the church. The young people pictured on this page are seven of the group who are serving the Lord and local Brethren churches in a variety of ministries this year. Education, music, camp, and drama, in addition to church staff internships, are areas of service they are entering.

The four young people pictured above are serving in pastoral, educational, and nursing care internships. Craig Brown, from Newark, Ohio, is serving the Maurertown, Va., Brethren Church; Steve Barber, from the Chandon Brethren Church in Herndon, Va., is serving at Smithville, Ohio. Manteca, Calif., is the host church for educational intern Joan McKinney, of Tucson, Ariz., and Jeannie Hesketh, from Vandergrift, Pa., is serving as an intern in geriatrics at the Brethren's Home of Indiana at Flora.

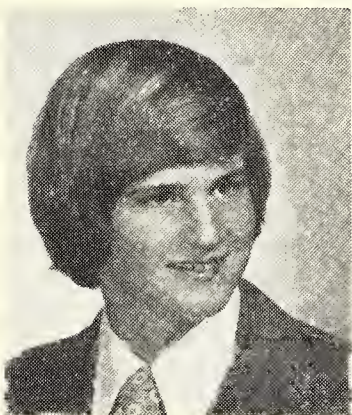
The American Southwest is the field of service for a team of three who are working with the

churches and camp in Arizona. Led by Jon Barber, from Herndon, Va., the team has also worked in the VBS program with the Tucson and Papago Park churches as well as the Arizona Brethren Camp. Tim Rowsey, Milledgeville, Ill., and Sue Ellen Barnes, a native of Tucson, are the other members of this team.

Be watching for the remaining Crusader team pictures in the August issue of the Brethren Evangelist. Meanwhile, if you would like to know more about what the Crusaders are doing this summer, write for your free subscription to "Summer Crusader Update."

The Summer Crusader program operates on a budget of nearly \$17,000, which must come entirely from monies "over and above" the regular Board of Christian Education budget. In other words, the Crusader ministry is, and must remain, self-sustaining. The youth of our church need your prayers **and** your financial support. Please address your gifts of love and commitment to:

Summer Crusader Fund  
524 College Ave.  
Ashland, OH 44805



*From left to right:  
Jon Barber  
Tim Rowsey  
Sue Ellen Barnes*

## 1976 Brethren Youth Convention Housing

Housing for the convention will be available in Kem Hall (open at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 8) and Amstutz Hall (open at 8:30 a.m., Monday,

Aug. 9) on the Ashland College campus. Room costs per person per night are \$3.75 for double occupancy and \$4.25 for single occupancy. Meals are also available in the Myers Convocation Center cafeteria and will cost \$1.85 for lunch, \$2.50 for dinner, and a la carte for breakfast.



# auxiliary programs for august

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## sisterhood

*"Developing Spiritual Gifts"  
written by Ruth Barber  
for Seniors*

## SMM Parable

This month's Sisterhood program is in the form of a parable. Just read it and enjoy it. (As an English teacher I can't resist reminding you of the definition of a parable: a story that has a deeper meaning than just the surface ideas.)

Behold, the time drew nigh for the monthly Sisterhood meeting. And lo, five young women gathered together at the house of one named Janice. Their leader calleth them to order and saith, "Where is my friend, Pam? She hath consented to share her thoughts and lead us in devotions tonight."

And the sister of Pam, answering, saith, "Pam hath requested that I lead tonight, since she has great need of more clothing and the store called Sears is having a great special on this very evening."

The leader gave consent and asked that the sister begin the devotions. And the sister asked her hostess for a Bible, seeing that hers was at home, and the sister asked friend Sue for some gum, seeing that hers had no flavor left. And the sister proceeded thusly:

"Mine own sister hath informed me that we have talked about gifts, so I'll read from Romans 12:4-8: 'We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we must do it according to the faith that we have. If it is to serve, we must serve. If it is to teach, we must teach. If it is to encourage others, we must do so. Whoever shares with others what he has, must do it generously;

whoever has authority must work hard; whoever shows mercy to others, must do it cheerfully.'

"Now members of the Sisterhood it is time for prayer. Will our leader please pray?"

And the leader protested saying, "All of us are part of the body of Christ here. We did have a study not many months past on prayer. Let's all be free to join in prayer." And the members did protest mightily, saying that their gift of prayer was weak and undeveloped and their knowledge exceedingly skimpy in this area. But with persuasion they did agree to pray. And their prayers were prayed in such manner as this: "Thank you, Father, for this beautiful day. Thank you for Jesus. Bless Pastor Jones. Thank you for the beautiful flowers. Help my grandmother who is in the hospital. Bless all our missionaries." And the sister of Pam indicated that the devotions were over, and she chewed her gum mightily.

And the leader was filled with a great sadness because the members of the Sisterhood had not taken time to worship the Lord, nor had they claimed any specific promises from the Lord during prayer, nor had they felt love within their hearts for God and each other during this time.

But the Lord gave her patience and encouraged her to move on. For these very members had promised the official board that they would hold the evening church service during the pastor's absence two Sundays hence. And the leader was pleased and glad within her heart as she thought of this, because she believed that the studies and the prayers and the memorizing of the Word were bearing fruit, and the girls were anxious to share their gifts with the local body.

So she opened her mouth and reminded the  
*(continued on next page)*



Dear Girls,

Did anyone read this page in the March 1976 issue when I asked for your activities of the year? I feel like not one girl who is a member of a Sisterhood group did. How long does it take to read a half page letter, written directly to you? If no one reads it, why should I bother to write?

Either you did not read that one or you just did not care enough to take time to jot down your group's activities to share with the other girls, who may have desperately needed your ideas. Don't you realize that some of the best encouragement that failing SMM groups can receive is from other groups who have similar needs and concerns? Our organization may soon die if we do not all try hard to help each other. It would have been so simple to recall the things your group has done, even just one interesting thing—it does not have to be spectacular to be beneficial.

I did not receive even **one** reply to my request for information. And you have had over two months. That is why our organization is not growing! I feel like nobody cares except the few people on the executive board. And we can do very little without your help. We have some new ideas to share with you at Conference. I hope by then and throughout next year you will be interested enough to participate with excitement.

I do have **some** ideas to share with you. A few groups had written to report their activities to me earlier in the year. The New Paris, Ind., girls had a family cookout in August. The girls cooked and prepared the entire meal "so all our moms had to do was come and enjoy themselves." To make money for their project goal they sold napkins and had a bake sale. Once a month they provide special music for the Sunday worship service—the whole group, small ensembles, or solos. They are a busy group, but they seem to enjoy it. Is that possible? Maybe your group would have more fun if you got busy doing things together. Try it!



SMM Parable (cont.)

girls of their promise and their desire to share what they had learned and the privilege they would have of being used by God. But the faces of the members of the Sisterhood showed neither willingness, nor desire to serve, nor love for Jesus, nor joy at the opportunity.

The friend named Sue reminded the Sisterhood that they were as little children, undeveloped in their gifts, prone to make mistakes, and that such qualities would not honor God. The member named Ann meekly said that she did believe her family had plans to be in a far country that night. And the sister of Pam declared with great fervor that she absolutely **hated** to be seen in public performances and suggested to the members that they

The West Alexandria, Ohio, junior group is really on the ball. They started a new group last fall, and they have 18 members registered. How's that? They sang at a nearby home for the elderly. Have you ever done that, besides at Christmas? Those great people would love to hear you sing songs from your church hymnal. They get numerous carolers during the Christmas season, but they would enjoy your singing all year round. Try it some afternoon. Then sit and talk with them for a few minutes. You may be surprised how fun it can be!

In December, the Walcrest Junior SMM of Mansfield, Ohio, baked and decorated cookies which they distributed to elderly members of their church. In February they sent valentines to some of these people. Christmas cookies can also be delivered anytime, even decorated! Sounds like fun, doesn't it?

I asked the Ashland Park Street junior group what they were doing, and I heard of something really different. Each girl is embroidering a 12 by 12 inch sheet with a picture printed on it. The squares will be sewn together and made into a quilt for World Relief by the sewing ladies of the church.

The Park Street senior group has been having some excellent speakers this year. We decided to ask a different interesting person from our church to speak at each meeting. We really learned a lot about ourselves and our ministry, as a group and individually, by the help of these special people.

At least **these** groups are alive. If yours is not, try some of these ideas and report to us at Conference. If you are alive but not listed here, I will still **gladly** welcome your letters at 227 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805. I honestly do want to hear about your group, even if you think it is all bad.

God bless you, and I hope to see you in August.

Yours in Christ,  
Nancy Ronk

tell the board, "Our minds have been changed."

And the heart of the leader was heavy. And the leader felt a great burden and prayed and wept before the Lord that He might bring the members into the fulness of the stature of Christ. But the hearts of the members were hard, and the cares of this world and the impressions they made on the children of men were more important to them than the opinion and desires of the Lord Jesus. And the gifts were not shared, the talents withered and dried up from misuse, and the body of Christ was not strong because some of its members were not functioning. And some of the members of the Sisterhood felt unwanted and useless like a big toe or an unseen tendon, and they were sad and joyless members of the body. And the body was not well. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.



written by  
Pauline Benshoff  
for Juniors

## Caution: Hidden Traps!

### Scripture Texts:

Psalms 140:4, 5—"Keep me, O Lord, from the wicked. They have set a trap by the wayside."

Job 18:10—"The snare is laid for him in the ground, and a trap for him in the way."

Jeremiah 5:26—"For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men."

**Prayer Time:** Each of you write down the things you feel you need prayer support for, fold the paper, and bring it along to the meeting. Put all the papers in a container in the middle of the prayer circle and go to prayer. After your prayer time is ended, each of you should pick up a slip and read it aloud. See how many of those prayers were uttered during the group prayer. God truly is mindful of our needs.

**Leader:** If you notice, David was not afraid to go out and slay the giant Goliath, but he was fearful of the sly, cunning traps that were being set for his young life. Thousands of young people are literally trapped already and do not realize it. The Devil comes to us in a full dress suit. Let us not walk as "children of darkness," but instead let's walk as "children of light." This month we are studying some traps that we need to shun in order to remain true to Christ.

### Topic I: The Trap of Little Habits

We are all very much aware of the big dangers, and we tend to avoid them to save our lives. That is well and good, but we might be so eager to spot the big things that we ignore the little "scorpions" which are sins of the body, the mind, and the soul.

I hear young people saying, "Life is so boring. It's just the same things over and over every day." Couldn't you change that routine? Reading your Bible and praying every day will help change that. Reading Christian books by authors who learned the hard way stimulates your mind to proceed in a whole new direction. Books are really your friends. God's Book is the best friend you can have.

Don't get into a rut. Plan each day so that it counts for good for God, for your fellowman, and for yourself. Remove from your life the little habits that inhibit your progress. Zoom in on the important things—time is too precious to use unwisely.

### Topic II: The Trap of Ego Builders

So many of the things we like, or like best to do, are only the things that bring honor or pleasure to ourselves. The Devil is happiest when we take all the credit for our performance in everything.

If you are an "A" student, that is fine; but did you really have anything to do with making that brain and causing it to function so you get those "A" grades? No, none of us has anything to brag about—not of ourselves, our accomplishments, or anything that is done through our efforts. We are allowed to boast only about Christ.

Oh, how the Devil uses this trap to get our attention and our time. Beware of it. Live each day to please Christ with your life.

### Topic III: The Trap of Low Ideals

The Devil is continually flashing before our eyes the big success story of what money, fame, and fashion can do for us. What he doesn't show us are the lives he has ruined through these very things. Money is needed, but it isn't to be our god and our only aim and ambition in life.

God needs some of your time, too, and His work cannot go on unless you learn early to tithe your income and share it with others so they can find Christ, too. Many folks follow the Devil's way and use all their money for themselves and for pleasure. Then at life's end they leave a little to the Lord. Let's beat the Devil at his own game and please Christ first.

The people who plan our fashions are not interested in whether they are Christian or not. You know from reading your Bible that your body is important to Christ, because He reminds us that we are not to be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2) and also that we are the temple of the living God (II Corinthians 6:16).

**Leader:** One thing about these traps is that they are no respecter of persons. All of us are at one time or another prey for the Devil.

Someone has written:

Tis not for man to trifle! Life is brief,  
And sin is here.

Our age is but the falling of a leaf,  
A dropping tear.

We have no time to sport away the hours,  
All must be earnest in a world like ours.

**Business  
Benediction**



prepared by  
J. Perry Deeter

## The Golden Chalice of Happiness

by Harold Sala

Gordon Clark, a Butler University professor, says that our 20th century has been characterized by the quest for happiness. Anyone who takes a lingering look at the world about us has to admit that Professor Clark has come down from the mystic clouds of philosophy to make a common-sense observation about life.

What about the commercials that you watched on TV last night? One may have pictured a secretary at her desk with a throbbing headache—a picture of absolute misery and despair. But when she took X brand of aspirin, everything was fine. Happy as a lark, she got her promotion. Another may have pictured the sad despair of a victim about ready to commit suicide. But as soon as he had a can of Fizzo pop, he was on Cloud Nine.

Happiness is characterized by commercial advertising as a prize that is tied in with driving a certain kind of car, dressing a certain way, or having whatever product the advertiser is trying to sell. Hollywood has epitomized happiness as a “thrill for the moment” with no thought of tomorrow. The popular attitude is that “my happiness is the most important thing in my life, and anything that doesn’t contribute to my state of happiness has to go.”

This approach to life has one problem. As long as there is plenty of money, as long as the surroundings and the atmosphere breathe plush elegance, you are happy as a lark. But when happiness is dependent solely on circumstances, in all probability your happiness is not likely to last long. Edward D. Stone, who has been chief architect for some of America’s most beautiful buildings, such as Huntington Hartford Gallery of Modern Art, the Tulsa Civic Center, and several of the buildings in the New York World’s Fair, said, “Happiness is not a worthy end . . . . Everybody runs through emotional cycles, depending on his nature, which may range from suicidal despair to ecstatic exultancy.” Stone says that happiness is shallow when it is based on circumstances.

Face the bitter world of reality. Life is not a bed of roses. Life is made up of the common and mundane as well as the sensational and spectacular. Bills must be paid; decisions must be made; battles must be fought. Occasionally there are valleys that we must walk through—illness, sorrow, and death. Yet through faith in Jesus Christ we can remain triumphant in the face of the blackest circumstances.

Several years ago I was traveling through the industrial region of central England. This is an area where the intense black coal smoke of the factories has turned everything a dismal shade of gray. As we passed through one village, the buildings seemed to be a darker shade of gray, the washing on the line a bit more dingy. A heavy, oppressive atmosphere beclouded the whole town. Turning to my host, I said, “How can these people stand living in a dreary environment like this? It seems to me they would all lose their minds because of the living conditions—smoke-tainted gray clothes and buildings, no blue sky!”

With a knowing smile my host turned to me and said, “These people are some of the happiest people in all England because they have learned to live above the circumstances of life.”

Happiness in its truest sense is not dependent on the circumstances about you. Real happiness stems from the heart. It is linked with joy that rises above circumstances. If happiness for the sake of pleasure has become the motivating factor in your life, you really are not living. You are just existing! Until a man finds the joy of Christian faith, his life has bursts of happiness that flare like Roman candles; but the vast portion of his life is filled with unrest, frustration, and monotony.

As a flashbulb in the dark, so is the momentary thrill of superficial happiness. But the joy of Christian experience is the buoy that lifts you above the sea of despair and unrest.

\*From GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING by Harold J. Sala. Copyright 1976 by Baker Book House Company and used by permission.

### Thoughts for Laymen

Isn’t it wonderful that we, as Christians, do not have to depend on circumstances of life for happiness? As Mr. Sala states, any happiness that we might find based solely on circumstances would certainly not last very long. The real happiness that we can and must depend upon is the happiness and joy that we have in living for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. To know that we have eternal life through Him is enough to live a life of joy and happiness as we look forward to that day when we will dwell with Him.



# signal lights

written by  
Alberta Holsinger

## Call to Worship:

Will you serve God all your days?  
Will you serve Him in all ways?

**BIBLE THEME:** Serving God

## Amos Serves God

Amos was a man who loved the out-of-doors. He spent many days on the hillsides around the village of Tekoa.

Amos was a shepherd. Early in the morning he took his flock to a green pasture. He watched them so they wouldn't wander away.

Here and there in the fields grew trees 25 to 50 feet high. These were the sycamore trees. The broad leaves of the trees gave shade to Amos and to the sheep on the long hot days. A figlike fruit grew on the sycamore trees. Amos cared for the trees and picked the fruit when it was ripe.

Amos had a quiet happy life.

Then one day God spoke to him. "Go and prophesy to My people Israel."

"Lord, I'm not a prophet. I'm a shepherd and a fruit picker," said Amos.

"Go and prophesy to My people Israel," God told him.

"The Israelites are enemies of my country," thought Amos. "But God has a message for me to give to them. I will go."

Amos left his sheep with another shepherd. He asked another farmer to care for his sycamore trees. Then Amos went to Israel to serve God there.

—Based on the Book of Amos

**PROJECT:** Medical Outreach in India

## Playtime in India

What do you like to play best of all? What is your favorite toy? (Let the children talk about these things.)

Children of India like to play, too. The girls play with dolls, and the boys play with cars and trucks. The stores sell toys that look very much like yours.

But most of the children do not have toys like yours. Their parents do not have the money to buy them. They make their toys from sticks and stones, pieces of cloth, and paper.

The little girls love their homemade dolls just as much as you love your fancy doll from the store. The boys have as much fun with their homemade cars as you have with yours which you buy.

There's lots of sand in India, and the children play in it often. They add water to it and make temples and factories.

They play hide and go seek, tag, and many games similar to the ones you play.

One game all of the children like to play is

Pullata. "Pulla" means stick. "Ata" means game. So its name tells you it's a game with a stick.

To play Pullata you need a stick about the size of a toothpick and a heap of sand. The one who is "it" hides the stick in the sand when the others are not looking. Then the others point to the place in the sand where they think the stick is hidden. Whoever selects the right spot gets one point. The game continues this way until someone has ten points.

Then the person with ten points is given a handful of sand with the little stick in it. He is blindfolded and taken on a zigzagging walk. Someplace along the way he is told to drop the sand and the stick.

He is led back to the starting place. The blindfold is taken off. Then he tries to find the place where he dropped the stick. If he finds it he's the winner. If he doesn't he loses his ten points and is out of the game.

Doesn't Pullata sound like a fun game? Try it sometime.



**July 4, 1976**

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# **once-in-a-lifetime offering**

*for the promotion and program of*

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The 1975 General Conference authorized this special offering to make the 1976 Conference a fitting tribute to the heritage of our country and our church.

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- Praying for the week's activities, and
- Contributing to the cost of the gathering.

Remember, this "Heritage of Hope" Conference needs your financial and prayer support to be successful.

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524 College Ave.  
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# 1976 General Conference

AUGUST 9-13

Ashland, Ohio

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through

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*Worship*

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plus—

*a look at what is ahead  
for the Brethren Church*

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**ONWARD!**

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**Valley Brethren Church**

**Jones Mills, Pennsylvania**

**August 1976**

**(see page 4)**





Show your colors with Brethren Youth Identity Gifts! These gift items are the perfect way to show that you are proud to be a member of National Brethren Youth Crusaders. And they make great gifts for your friends and families. These items will be available at General Conference and at the National BYC Convention. Plan to purchase them now—the supply is limited.

#### Prices

White Mesh T-Shirt	\$5.25	Key Tags	\$.40
Powder Blue T-Shirt	\$3.00	Book Marks (4 colors)	\$.15
Heather Blue w/Trim T-Shirt	\$3.25	Car Window Decals	\$.50
Coffee Mugs	\$1.50 each or 4 for \$5.50		

**Board of Christian Education**  
**524 College Avenue**  
**Ashland, Ohio 44805**



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**editors' notes**

Dear Friend,

If you are a member of the Missionary Board's Growth Partners Club (formerly Ten Dollar Club), you will want to read Fuzzy Hesketh's article on page 4 for an update on the progress of their relocation in the new facility you helped build.

Ed Dayton of World Vision's MARC division will not disappoint you. His article on page 26 is a personal editorial from the MARC Newsletter.

I was happy to share my first offering in the form of an editorial on page 11. By the way, editorials that are signed are the opinion of the editor signing; unsigned opinion pieces will be the combined thoughts of the editorial staff.

The 1976 General Conference is just a few days away. I trust you are making your final plans for your trip to Ashland. Please drive carefully . . . and be sure to stop in to see us and our new offices and the Carpenter's Shop.

Until then,  
Ron Waters

MEMBER **epa** EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION



# ONWARD!

by Clarence Hesketh

With a vision for their growing community, they stepped out on faith . . . and God blessed them.

May 15, 1973, may well have marked a turning point in the history of the Valley Brethren Church of Jones Mills, Pennsylvania. On that day two very important decisions were made which we feel will strengthen our ministry for Jesus Christ in one of Pennsylvania's finest recreational areas.

The first decision was to build new facilities in a new location. The second was to seek incorporation in order to handle the affairs of the church in a more efficient manner.

The Valley Brethren Church was organized in the fall of 1883 by Elder J. B. Wampler, with a membership of 23. After meeting from time to time in schoolhouses and "under the trees," the group constructed a house of worship in 1885. David Young donated the ground on which the church was built and \$100 to start the work. The structure had been our place of worship and fellowship for nearly 90 years.

Though our small, one-room church build-

ing held many memories, it was not adequate for the needs of our growing community. So we decided to take a step of faith.

With the decisions to build and to incorporate, one of our faithful families offered two acres of property, and in less than a month clearing and grading began at the site of our new facilities. An initial gift of \$1,000, along with \$2,000 transferred from the general fund to the building fund, supplied the needed finances to care for the legal aspects of fulfilling a dream of many years.

The next three months were especially busy ones, but by the time they had passed the property belonged to the Valley Brethren Church, permits had been obtained, incorporation was completed, plans were drawn, and the property was dedicated to the cause of Jesus Christ.

Just 11 months after the momentous decisions had been made, construction began with the pouring of the footers. By August 1974 the superstructure was finished and the building was under roof. In late November, just one day before a violent storm paralyzed the area, the last of the bricks was put into place.

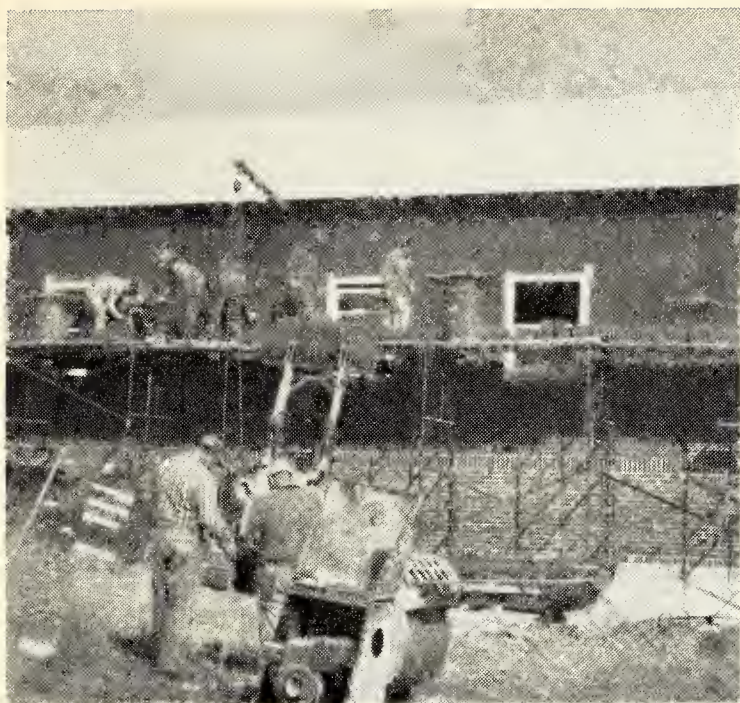
With portable kerosene heaters providing some relief from the bitter mountain winter, work continued on the interior of the building. The weather permitted the plastering work to begin in June 1975, and the end of summer found the building well on its way to completion. Another winter's work was required, but this time we had the advantage of a good hot water heating system.

For two years the Lord provided the Valley Brethren Church with talented and faithful workers, as well as the financial means necessary to complete an adequate new sanctuary and educational facilities. The work did not always go smoothly; many sacrificed both time and money to accomplish



*The former building of the Valley Brethren Church served the congregation faithfully for nearly 90 years.*





*The members of the church donated many hours of labor on the new facility to bring it to completion.*

the task, and for this we give God the praise and glory. We are also thankful for the helping hands of many friends and neighbors, some of whom will never have opportunity to worship with us.

We look forward to the advancement of the work of our Lord here in the Laurel Highlands, as the gospel of Jesus Christ goes beyond the walls of this building to all who have need of spiritual help through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and as we allow Him to work through us.

Well, we've just about put the finishing touches on the building, and we look forward to our service of dedication on August 29

*"Though our small, one-room church building held many memories, it was not adequate for the needs of our growing community."*

at 2:30 p.m. One great blessing of that day will be the knowledge that there will never be a mortgage-burning ceremony for the building—everything is paid for. We thank you for your generosity through your giving to the Ten Dollar Club call for us in 1975. And, of course, we have appreciated the prayers of all our friends and neighbors.

We have access to a beautiful picnic area close by, and the sweet corn will be ripe by August 29. We hope many of our faithful friends across the brotherhood will be able to attend. Will you come? We'll look for you.

*Clarence "Fuzzy" Hesketh is pastor of the Valley Brethren Church.*

## Our Readers Respond

by Ron Waters

During the early months of 1975, the Executive Committee of the Brethren Publishing Company asked members of the Brethren Church to complete a questionnaire on their reading habits and opinions concerning the Brethren Evangelist.

A total of 844 questionnaires were returned. The middle age bracket of those who responded was 41-50 years of age. Women composed 56 percent of the total and men made up 44 percent. Only 3 percent had been members of the Brethren Church for 5 years or less, while nearly half had belonged to the church at least 30 years. They also were faithful in their church attendance—94 percent said they attended church "every Sunday."

Responses to a question about the number of Christian books read in the previous year revealed that over 60 percent had read less than 5. By far, the favorite secular magazine was the Reader's Digest, with National Geographic a distant second.

Church unity and inspiration were the major purposes perceived for the magazine, and 67 percent felt it was fulfilling those purposes "very well" or "adequately" at that time.

Respondents were asked to indicate how often they read each of several regular features of the magazine. Below are the percentages of those who said they "always read" each:

News from the Brethren	78%
Missionary News	72%
Laff-a-Little	61%
World Religious News	58%
Christian Ed News	55%
Poetry	49%
Editorial	47%
Special Studies	
(divorce, baptism)	46%
Board Publicity	37%
Brethren House Beat	36%
Women's Lab	36%
Auxiliary Programs	31%

Nearly half of those who answered the questionnaire said they would like to see more articles on family life. About 40 percent were interested in reading the denomination's stand on various social issues, and a similar number desired suggested Bible studies.

In response to those who took the time to answer the questionnaire, the staff of the Brethren Evangelist is studying carefully the analysis of the responses (prepared by J. Michael Drushal) and the suggestions given by the respondents. We have already begun to implement some of these for your enrichment and reading pleasure.



# Rome

by George Solomon

*Read Romans 1:1-17; 16:17-20.*

Growing churches demonstrate growth principles. But different churches, in different situations, may show more emphasis on certain principles because of their unique circumstances.

For instance, we found that the church in Thessalonica (Nov. 1, 1975, issue) was characterized by its labors of love and its patience in hope. The church in Berea (Nov. 15, 1975) was noted for its eagerness to hear and study God's Word. Corinth (Nov. 29, 1975) was marked by its ability to maintain spiritual life in the most difficult circumstances. The believers in Ephesus (March 1976) made a clean break with that which was contrary to God's teaching, and they demonstrated a love for all the saints. And the Philipians (June 1976) were a prayerful, joyful, and generous people.

The church in Rome came into being in a different way than the other New Testament churches. It began when Christians who had been converted elsewhere found each other in the capital city of the empire and banded together. It is not known who organized the congregation; even tradition fails to report a single name or even a suggestion.

Where did these believers come from? After the church in Jerusalem was scattered by persecution after Stephen's martyrdom, some believers must

mind any thought that some might be hypocrites, only playing church and pretending to have faith. Instead, he considers all the members to be believers and leaves any who might be insincere to the Knower of all hearts.

Faith is the door through which we must enter the church, the body of Christ. Elsewhere Paul wrote, "For by grace are you saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8)—we cannot come to salvation any other way. So, Paul included all who were in the church at Rome, assuming that all had come by this means to membership. Further, the "all" may signify that there were no contentions in matters of faith, that a unity of faith prevailed among the members. Certainly, this is essential if a church is to be healthy and grow!

Faith must have an object, and Paul identified the object of his own faith in Romans 1:1-4 and of their faith in verse 6. Their faith was in the Person of Jesus Christ, God's Son. There can be no other base. (Note Acts 4:12, I Corinthians 3:11, John 14:6, and I John 5:12.)

Paul was not only thankful for the unity of faith in Jesus Christ exhibited by the believers in Rome, but he was also thankful that that faith had been "spoken of throughout all the world." This is a hyperbolic statement; to be sure, he did not mean that absolutely everyone had heard of their faith. But everywhere Paul, the world traveler, went were people who had heard about the great faith of the Christians in Rome.

I believe Paul was thankful for this fact because it was important to the total Christian witness in that day. It must have been encouraging to other churches—those that were being born, those struggling, those being persecuted, and even those that were thriving and growing. The knowledge of the faith in Rome was an asset to the growth of the church throughout the empire!

Isn't this same fact true today? We rejoice and take heart when we hear about the faith of growing churches on the mission field. We are also encouraged in our own labors by how God is working in other churches in other areas of our own country, how He is blessing them with growth.

Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:13, 16). If a

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*" . . . your faith is spoken of throughout all the world."*

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have made their way to Rome. The Book of the Acts tells us that some of those who heard Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost were "of Rome, Jews and proselytes." Some of them were probably among the 3,000 who became believers that day. And, as the capital of the known world, Rome was a center of travel and trade and drew many people to itself. Growth was a definite possibility for this nucleus of believers.

I discovered two characteristics about this church that are vital to any church that wants to grow and fulfill its mission—a unity of faith and an obedience to the gospel.

Paul had written to the Thessalonians that "in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad." In a similar vein, he wrote to the Roman church that "your faith is spoken of throughout all the world" (Romans 1:8).

But notice how he prefaces that statement: "I thank my God . . . for you **all**." He put from his

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*George Solomon is pastor of the growing church in Derby, Kansas.*



## *a growing church*

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The church in Rome differed from the other New Testament churches. But the believers there demonstrated two growth factors applicable today.

church is to grow, it must not hide its light under a bushel—it must not keep its faith secret, hidden from the world.

If your light is shining, put it on a candlestick—hold it up so all can see. Let your faith be proclaimed throughout all the world! Paul told the Romans, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,” and we must not feel ashamed to proclaim it either.

Now look at the last chapter of the epistle to the Romans. Here Paul wrote, “Your obedience is come abroad to all men” (16:19). Not only had their faith in the gospel been noised about but also their obedience to the gospel. This is the second characteristic of the church of Rome and of growing churches today.

Those who enter the church through faith must continue in that same faith by being obedient to it. It is obedience to the faith that often bears the greatest witness to the unsaved. For a person to accept by faith the gospel message and then to be disobedient to it is hypocritical, and hypocritical behavior can be one of the greatest stumbling-blocks to evangelism and church growth.

The Christians at Rome had not received the grace of God as an act of faith alone, but they continued in that faith by demonstrating their loyal obedience. The Book of the Acts gives the history of the growth of the early church. In Acts 2:42 we read that “they (those who had received the gospel and had been baptized) continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine.” In the Old Testament, the prophet Samuel told King Saul that “to obey is better than sacrifice.”

Obedience is more than just an Old Testament requirement. Christianity is a way of life, and

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*“... they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine.”*

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obedience is part of that way. Consider these direct commands, all found in the New Testament:

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33)

Go ye into all the world . . . (Mark 16:15)

Love one another . . . (John 15:12)

Bear ye one another’s burdens . . . (Galatians 6:2)

Be kindly affectioned one to another . . . (Romans 12:10)

Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction . . . (James 1:27)

Pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17)

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man . . . (I Peter 2:13).

The list is endless. Remember what Jesus said: “Not everyone that saith unto me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21). Obedience is better than sacrifice.

The church in Rome had kept its full doctrinal and ethical integrity! It was sound in its obedience. Although it was without the service of an

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*“The knowledge of the faith in Rome was an asset to the growth of the church throughout the empire.”*

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apostle, it thrived and grew. Great leadership makes possible great churches! But the leadership need not, must not, dare not rest in the pastor alone. Lay men and women endowed by God with leadership qualities (or gifts) need to dedicate these to the service of the Lord and His church.

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit has endowed every Christian with a gift or gifts. “Through the grace of God we have different gifts. If our gift is preaching, let us preach to the limit of our vision. If it is serving others let us concentrate on our service; if it is teaching let us give all that we have to teaching; and if our gift be the stimulation of the faith of others let us set ourselves to it. Let the man who is called to give, give freely; let the man who wields authority think of his responsibility; and let the man who feels sympathy for his fellows act cheerfully” (Romans 12:6-8, Phillips).

Occasionally you will see a church thrive and grow even though they have lost their pastoral leadership for a time. This was the case in Rome. The lay people were full of faith and obedient. They were responsible church members. And the church not only grew—it established a reputation for being a dynamic church.

Responsible church membership is the key to a strong, growing church. Let us strengthen our commitment by exercising a strong unity of faith in Christ and a clear obedience to Him. When the world sees this kind of lifestyle, it will be drawn to our Lord and to His church.



# church growth forum

## Who Does What?

by Arden Gilmer

Where does your church spend most of its time, energy, and money? Every church growth task force and/or official board should seek to discern the answer to this question and answer it in quantitative terms.

Let's start with the resources of time and energy. First, list all the tasks and functions that your church is now fulfilling, for example, Sunday school, choirs, various committees, visitation, office work, youth, auxiliaries, and so forth. Make the list as comprehensive as possible.

Then list by name all of the people in the church involved in fulfilling these various tasks and ministries. For each person, estimate the number of hours they are spending weekly to fulfill their task, including preparation time as well as the actual time spent doing the task.

Before you can complete this exercise, you need to know the meaning of the terms "Class I" and "Class II" leaders, terms coined by Dr. Donald McGavran.

Class I represents those who serve the existing church. They are Sunday school teachers, deacons, elders, choir members, ushers, people who arrange flowers, and those who phone or visit members who are sick. In short, they are that great army of able Christians who contribute time so liberally and to such good effect in our churches.

Class II represents volunteer workers who head out from the church. They actively reach out to others in the community who need Christ. They are involved in any form of outreach to non-Christians. You may see them going two-by-two down the street ringing doorbells or inviting people to a home Bible study or doing any one of a number of things that help people come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Now, using these definitions and the figures you gathered above, determine how many man-hours are spent in Class I work and how many in Class II work per week.

What did you find? Most churches spend 97 percent of their time, energy, and money on themselves and only 3 percent on reaching out to those who are "outsiders"—those who do not know Christ as Savior and Lord. A church like this will show very little growth. We receive our returns from the areas in which we invest our resources.

If a church wants to grow, it will deliberately seek to:

1. Increase the number of Class II workers,
2. Increase the number of hours spent on Class II work,

3. Increase the number of contacts it has with outsiders,
4. Increase the visibility it has in the community, and
5. Increase the amount of funding spent in reaching outsiders.

Now that you know how you are using your time and energy, why not devise and implement plans for increasing each of the areas, but especially the area of Class II work. Then monitor your progress over a period of time to determine what increase is actually taking place.

Try it and see how it helps your church grow.



## My First-Time Confession

Don't get me wrong! I have been a Christian for 22 years! But April 30 and May 1, 1976, I had a "first-time" experience (leading a church growth seminar) and I would like to "confess" that to you.

The setting was Roanoke, Indiana, at the First Brethren Church. The Roanoke, Huntington, and Meadow Crest Brethren churches had united for Church Growth Seminar One, and I had the privilege of leading in that growing time together.

I had been to Meadow Crest a number of times but I had never been to Roanoke. (I still haven't been to Huntington.) So I put in focus my "church growth eyes" and drove around Roanoke to see what I could see. Nice little town. Going up Main Street you must make up your mind to turn either right or left or you will drive right through the main entrance to the First Brethren Church. You have to make a decision before you ever get to the front door. They have visibility! Just from my drive around Roanoke I became convinced that the church can grow in Roanoke.

The real news I want to write about concerns what went on inside that building situated in the middle of Main Street! A spirit of optimism and faith permeated the participants. The people were open and warm and interested.

Pastors Ralph Gibson (Roanoke), Rod Thomas (Huntington), and Paul Tinkel (Meadow Crest) have been doing fine work in their respective churches. If the spirit of this seminar was any indication, they will continue their fine work, but

*(continued on page 25)*



# UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church  
and the Evangelical Press Association

## Weddings

**Beverly Blough—Randy Smith**, July 10, at Ashland Theological Seminary; Donald Rinehart, officiating.

**Ruth Deardurff—Dean Harkness**, July 17, at Gretna church, Bellefontaine, Ohio; Doc Shank, officiating.

**Esther Furman—Randall Ruppel**, June 26, at Warsaw, Ind., First church; Woodrow Immel, officiating.

**Alayne Smith—Ronald Gothe**, June 19, at North Manchester, Ind., First church; Woodrow Immel, officiating.

**Sue Ellen Stoffer—Bruce Ronk**, June 26, at Canton, Ohio, Trinity church; Dale Stoffer and John Byler, officiating.

**Becky Warren—Richard Applegate**, June 18, at North Manchester, Ind., First church; Woodrow Immel, officiating.

## Goldenaires

**Mr. & Mrs. Robert Blough**, 50th, June 22. Members of the Johnstown, Pa., Third church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Node Doggett**, 60th, May 24. Members of the Ashland, Ohio, Park Street church. (Correction from July issue)

**Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Grumbling**, 50th, Apr. 6. Members of the Johnstown, Pa., Third church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Norman E. Grumbling, Sr.**, 50th, June 17. Members of the Johnstown, Pa., Third church.

## In Memory

**Ruth K. Elliott**, 85, May 17. Member of Warsaw, Ind., First church. Services by Claude Stogsdill, pastor.

**Harold C. Heskett**, 45, July 9. Member of the Ashland, Ohio, Park Street church. Services by Fred Burkey.

**Mrs. R. F. Porte**, July 15. Resident of the Brethren's Home in Flora, Ind. Services by Alvin Grumbling, pastor of the Flora church.

**Laura Alma Tombaugh**, 82, May 16. Faithful member of the Sarasota, Fla., First church.

**Lance K. Zier**, 5, June 26. Lanark, Ill., First church. Services by Paul Steiner, pastor, and James Black.

## Calendar of Events

**AUGUST 9-13**—1976 General Conference, Ashland.

**SEPTEMBER 7-23**—Regional Pastors' Consultations.

**SEPTEMBER 23-25**—Southeast Conference, Massanetta Springs.

## Pastoral News

**William Brady**, completing pastorate at Walcrest (Mansfield, Ohio) on Aug. 15.

**James Fields**, from Fremont, Ohio, to associate pastor for Christian education, First Baptist Church, Monticell, Ky., June 27.

**Harold Walton**, from Christian and Missionary Alliance to Johnstown, Pa., Second church, early summer.

## WAYNE HEIGHTS DEDICATES NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL ADDITION

**Waynesboro, Pa.**—The Wayne Heights Brethren Church here dedicated its new Sunday school addition on Sunday, May 23, and began using the facility on Sunday, May 30, according to Henry Bates, pastor.

A fellowship dinner and open house were held immediately following the service of dedication.

The dedicatory sermon, presented by Pastor Bates, was entitled "The Mission of the Church."

## GEASLEN RESIGNS AT FLORA, PLANS INDEFINITE

**Flora, Ind.**—Gene Geaslen, assistant administrator of the Brethren's Home, submitted his resignation to the board of the home on May 17. He had served in that position for four years.

During his time with the home, he assisted with the remodeling of the original Brethren's Home into apartments; the addition of a 40-bed wing to the new nursing home; and the addition of 10 retirement-independent living apartments in Brethren Village.

Geaslen, his wife, and two children will be staying in Flora until he secures employment. Though his plans are indefinite, he would like to stay in the health care field.

## MT. OLIVE HONORS MRS. BOWMAN, OTHER SENIOR CITIZENS

**McGaheysville, Va.**—The Mt. Olive Brethren Church recognized Mrs. Vallie Bowman as "Senior Citizen of the Year" on May 2. Special recognition was also given to all other senior citizens of the church.

"Miss Vallie," as many people call her as a carry-over from her school teaching days, has attended the Mt. Olive church all her life. Her many services have included teaching Sunday school, playing the piano, being active in WMS, serving as church treasurer for 11 years, and as secretary for 22 years.

—Rebecca Hunter



## Great Expectations, Great Responsibilities

There is optimism here at Ashland College as we approach our 99th year. New students are expected, and upperclassmen are returning, too, as indicated at registration when a very high percentage planned schedules for the fall. Following graduation in 1974 of the largest class in AC's history, and the expected decrease in enrollment for 1975-76, it is most encouraging to see the enrollment remaining steady.

Other factors contribute to the optimism on AC's campus. In addition to the more traditional programs, which have long been the foundation of a liberal arts education at AC, new academic programs have attracted the students. These include Hotel/Restaurant Management, the Health Services Management, Journalism-English, the expansion of the Sociology program into a Social Work major, and the most exciting—a graduate program in which the Master's degree in Education is earned!

Another new program on our campus, which is in its second year of growth, is the English Language Institute, teaching the English language to international students. Students have enrolled from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Omani, Venezuela, and Mexico.

The new programs and association with international students will work only if we have students. This is where you may become involved with Ashland College. For the 1976-77 school year, the costs each semester will be: tuition—\$1,500; the activity fee—\$30; room and board—\$630; or, a total of \$4,320 for the year.

It is a known fact that tuition at a state-operated college/university is less. Often we do not fairly evaluate the facts—we look only at the dollar sign. Tuition is less because of taxes. In Ohio, part of our state income tax helps to fund state institutions. With this support, it is easy to see that less money is required for tuition from the

student. Furthermore, at state universities large classes are maintained with one teacher, making the ratio of students to professor very high. Ashland is pleased to maintain a low ratio (14 to 1). The teacher can be acquainted with and interested in the student as an individual. "Accent on the Individual" is not a trite cliché; it has meaning.

Some students cannot afford a college education unless they receive some financial help. Previously, help has been available from general sources, such as government loans, the college financial aids office, and family. Today, such sources are either insufficient or unavailable. Government funds have been decreased for lower- and middle-income families, and well-to-do families do not need government funds!

Ashland College assists as much as possible in providing scholarships, grants, and work-study programs. Approximately 700 students (40%) receive financial aid from the college. The Educational Day Offering, which is usually received in October by the denomination, amounts to approximately \$9,000 annually. This helps to provide a scholarship in the amount of \$600 to Brethren students, unless they qualify for a larger amount (ministerial, Presidential, family, etc.).

In spite of this assistance, some Brethren students have been unable to begin or to continue their education because of the increase in tuition. It is imperative that help be given. Just so much financial aid from the college is available; other sources of income should be found, and the local church is the first possibility. Giving some tangible support will certainly show the student your interest, concern, and encouragement. Can you visualize the value of investing \$500 to \$1,000 in a student's preparation for life?

This financial assistance can be from individuals or from the church. There are advantages to both efforts, and the decision is a local decision.

Some congregations establish a college scholarship fund from the tithe of bequests, wills, or direct gifts. Some amount of this fund, then, is made available to students as a gift, as a scholarship which recognizes outstanding abilities, or as a loan to be paid following graduation or completion of the specified program (such as two-year, junior, or business college).

The personal involvement of assisting a worthy student in college keeps the tie strong between the church and the student. The student feels a responsibility to pursue and to persevere worthwhile studies, goals, and ambitions. The assistance should be a continuing effort. Sometimes a student has savings which are complemented by a scholarship or grant for his freshman year. By the second or third year, financial help is really needed. If none is available, the student will quit school. Attrition (losing students for various reasons) is a real problem to any college, and

In an effort to provide our readers with a vehicle for expressing views on issues, we will present "As I See It" from time to time.

Submissions should take a specific point of view and should not attack individuals or groups. Maximum length will be 750 words. All submissions are subject to approval by the staff before publication. Views expressed in this column will not necessarily be those of the Brethren Publishing Company, its board of directors, or staff.

Mrs. Ronk is secretary to the vice president for student and resource development at Ashland College and organist for the Park Street Brethren Church.



## That They Might Have Life

"Wrong time to be pregnant? We're here to help. Pregnancy termination up to 12 weeks. . . . Your own private counselor . . . to be with you throughout the abortion procedure. . . . Call . . . Medicaid covers abortion fee."

Maybe you've seen this or an advertisement like it in your newspaper. Appalling? Of course, but only an indication of the growing lack of concern for the sanctity of life of unborn children.

The recent Supreme Court ruling, allowing a married woman to obtain an abortion without the consent of the child's father, is another "giant leap" toward a weak family structure in our society. One of our nation's political parties has refused to include a plank in its national platform to save the lives of thousands of unborn Americans and grant them the right of life.

It has been easy for me to ignore the move in our country to a more liberal attitude toward abortion, smug in my own pro-life belief. But when a review copy of Dr. C. Everett Koop's book **The Right to Live; The Right to Die** (Tyndale House, 1976) crossed my desk, I was compelled to hear out this eminent pediatric surgeon. My understanding of the facts and implications was broadened and my passive attitude changed.

Dr. Koop correctly asserts that most Christians (he speaks as an evangelical) are at least passively opposed to abortion, but they generally cannot articulate logical or theological reasons for their stand. As a result of this failure to be informed and to speak out, pro-abortionists are waging a quiet semantic coup, altering our entire vocabulary about the unborn. Koop notes that "in this war of semantics, somehow or other liberal thinking has switched the truth that the unborn child is the victim of the abortion to the fact that the mother not wanting a pregnancy somehow or other is the victim of pregnancy" (p. 45).

Arguments used by the pro-abortionists carry an emotional punch but are devoid of factual

support. They plead the case of the victim of rape, the endangered health of a mother, or the adverse effects upon a woman with a psychosis. But statistics show that the incidence of pregnancy from rape is astonishingly small. And Koop quotes the foremost advocate of abortion among physicians as saying that "it is possible for almost any patient to be brought through pregnancy alive," and that there is little evidence that pregnancy deepens psychosis.

Several mainline denominations have softened their pro-abortion stand in recent months. It is time for us as Brethren to take a positive stand for life. What can you do?

First, become informed. Purchase and study Dr. Koop's **The Right to Live; The Right to Die** and other carefully prepared pro-life literature. Be certain, also, to open God's Word, especially to such passages as Psalm 139:12-16 and Isaiah 44:1-2, 24.

Second, write your congressmen, state officials, political candidates, and national and state political party central committees. Find out their views, and present sound reasons for pro-life legislation.

Third, create a positive alternative in your community for the lonely, despondent mother, be she married or unwed. Provide comfort, counsel, and protection for her. If she does not want her child, help her in placing it in a wanting home. In short, provide a compassionate atmosphere that maintains a high quality of life for both mother and child.

And finally, be involved in the small group studies on current social issues at General Conference on Thursday afternoon. See that they are more than simply friendly discussions that are quickly forgotten.

Our Lord was concerned about the physical lives and needs of people. Can we afford to ignore such a vital issue?

—Ronald W. Waters

every effort is being implemented to save a student.

Don't wait for a student to ask for help. Some will never ask! The spirit of giving can be appreciated so much more if it is volunteered cheerfully. This should be on an individual basis, not a blanket announcement in the bulletin! "Accent on the Individual" is the motto at Ashland College but can be utilized in any situation. The personal approach can not be surpassed! And may I suggest that the initial approach be given now—or sooner. Do not wait till school starts.

Ashland College and Ashland Theological Seminary are the only Brethren institutions of higher learning. It is the opportunity and privilege for the denomination to give support to these Christian institutions. Prayer support is urgent—divine

guidance for the college in general and for individuals in particular. Students and financial help are needed, also.

The Board of Trustees is the governing body with 54 members; 35 of these are representatives of the Brethren Church. There are 19 administrators and faculty members who belong to the Brethren Church. Six staff members and 67 Brethren students complete the Brethren "group" on the college and the seminary campuses. These people have assumed their responsibilities, and they depend upon the denomination for encouragement and assistance. It is imperative that the Brethren denomination give support to the college and to the seminary. When the support of the Brethren denomination is stronger, these institutions will be stronger.



## NEW BEGINNINGS

by Smith Rose

So you've selected your new pastor. Maybe the pastoral change was required because of your former pastor's call to another field of service or through his retirement or death in service. Or maybe your congregation desired new leadership.

Whatever the immediate cause of the change, it is important to realize that God is providing new leadership and offering you an opportunity for a new beginning. This is a time when each member of the congregation should examine his relationship to Christ and the church and discover ways to improve that relationship.

Perhaps the most important effect of a pastoral change is the congregation's opportunity to become, in reality, a local expression of the body of Christ. Unfortunately, many church members never really sense that they are part of a body. They are intensely individualistic and self-centered. In one sense, we might say many have never matured as Christians to the place that they could be called responsible church members.

Therefore, part of the new beginning should be for the congregation as a whole to become a complete, functioning body of believers. There should be a real concern for those who need maturing so that they might be built up in their faith.

One of the failures of the church in the past has been an emphasis on merely bringing people to Christ. This was good and right, but short-sighted. God wants all His children to become mature. Besides, a local congregation cannot function effectively if part of the body is underdeveloped.

Another important new beginning is to receive the parsonage family as full members of the body, recognizing and accepting the pastor as the under-shepherd of Christ. And we must remember that he has a responsibility, by the nature of his calling, to be the pastor of the whole body. Too often a man's ministry is rendered largely ineffective when he is limited (or when he limits himself) to a ministry to only part of the congregation.

A new beginning can (and should) bring a new sense of responsibility. During the interim between pastors, you and the other members of your congregation probably sensed a greater need for serving the church and the community. Now how easy it would be to relax again and leave the work of ministry to the new pastor.

But ministry is the work of the entire congregation. There are no unimportant people; God has brought each one into the congregation with purpose. Each member needs to discover this purpose

individually and with the discernment of the others in the body.

Remember that your pastor's ministry is first and foremost to train and lead the congregation into the most complete fulfillment of Christ's ministry possible in your community. It is through the church collectively, and through its members individually, that Christ ministers in the world. Now is the time to catch this vision and willingly ask Christ to bring it to actuality in you and your church. There is no greater purpose for our lives in this world.

Pastoral change brings an abrupt halt to much that has been the "program" of the previous pastor. It brings a time for reassessment of where the congregation is, a reexamination of its purposes and goals, and the opportunity of moving in new directions in the future.

We in the church often become comfortable with a given set of services and activities and do not bother to ask whether or not they are still fulfilling the needs of our community or our congregation for growth. Yet, as we encounter change in our daily lives (brought about by our work, school, community life, or technological advances), we must beware that our church life does not become unrealistically detached from the changes in the world around us.

This is not to say that we should become more "worldly" or that we should change the substance of our message. It does mean that we may need to adapt some of our programs in order to reach out into our present-day culture and draw needy souls into the church. A point of contact must be maintained with the world if communication of the gospel is to be possible.

New beginnings bring great challenges and greater opportunities. Change can be frightening and threatening, but approaching it with proper perspective can open new windows for light to flow in. So make that new beginning with Christ. Prayerfully seek His guidance through His Word and through the ministry of your new pastor. And don't be surprised at the new vitality He will bring into the midst of your congregation.

But don't hesitate beyond the optimum time to seek clear guidance, for it is true that he who hesitates is lost. Christ works in the present.

So begin now. Seize your opportunity for a new beginning, for God's glory and the well-being of your church.



# world relief

*Reflections from my recent tour*

## Land of Tragedy

by Phil Lersch

Fifty percent of the disasters in the world hit Bangladesh, according to a report given at a disaster conference in Washington, D.C., in 1975. Such tragedies include drought, famine, typhoons, and floods.

Add to that the war five years ago and you begin to grasp the hopelessness that has overtaken the people of this Asian land.

The people from the Dacope area (which I visited in January) were forced to flee to Calcutta during the Bengali-Pakistani War in 1971-72. While refugees, their homes were burned, their cattle stolen, and their farming equipment destroyed. Those who remained were shot down by the hundreds, according to one Bengali WRC director in the area when it was first invaded.

After 18 to 24 months, the Bengali people were allowed to come back from their haven in Calcutta. But come back to what? They found desolation and overgrown fields. Many were sick with small pox and had bodies covered with scabs. Suicide was prevalent. They could think of nothing to do to make things better. Women and children roamed the streets of Khulna (about 35 miles up-river) looking for food.

### Partial Solutions

Into this situation came a few concerned Christian leaders. One was Paul Munshi, a trained and knowledgeable Bengali Christian. (Paul is now president of the WRC counterpart agency in Bang-

ladesh—Christian Social Society). Others were Rev. and Mrs. Howard Hawks, veteran Assembly of God missionaries to Bangladesh.

Mr. Munshi's first concern was to gain permission from the Muslims (who had done much of the killing) to bury the dead in the river. He saw the suffering firsthand and prayed that he might have opportunity to come back to Dacope and help the people.

With the help of the World Relief Commission and other agencies, Rev. and Mrs. Hawks began a feeding program in Khulna. This was not just a little lunchline; their workers fed 12,000 people every morning in their front yard. It took over four hours daily to dole out the five tons of beans and rice. Although you and I did not realize it then, our Brethren World Relief money was helping with projects such as this. (When I was there, they were still feeding about 125 older women and children daily from the streets of Khulna.)

Eventually, the women of Dacope began using simple looms to make grass mats from the tall grass the men were cutting in the fields. The Hawks bought 1,000 of these for the camps in Khulna. Later, the International Red Cross ordered 10,000 mats for people in refugee camps. This kind of income carried the people along while WRC was at work with tractors getting the fields back in shape.

This was a start—a small start to be sure—but the task ahead was great. More about this next month.



*Women and children wait for food in the Hawks' front yard in Khulna, Bangladesh.*

Photo by Phil Lersch



# christian education



*Search and Discovery Unit  
Left to right—Randy Myers, Jean Troup, Bobbi  
Miller, Tim Garner*



## *Sonlife '76*

*Left to right—Jeff Lentz, Deb Munson, Kerry Scott,  
Deb Michael, John Black, Cathy Comfort, Jim Black,  
Susie Keslar, Steve McPherson, Nancy Dreyer,  
Tom Keplinger, Elaine Hensley*



**Sun**

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*Educational Unit I  
Left to right—Becky Hamilton, Deanne Lynch,  
Donna Shank, Betsy Sayler*



*Education  
Left to right—Mary I  
Jane Drexler, M*





## er Crusaders—Part 2

Summer Crusader Program is in its and has proven to be spiritually profit- young people and the 40-plus churches, and other institutions they have served. emphasis this year has been placed on surveys (to assist churches in identi- fects); educational ministries (incor- ple learning activities) at camps and in ble schools; musical programs and sions; the use of drama as a means for ing the claims of Christ and the fe; and vocational internships. of the Board of Christian Education ank you for your prayer and financial the Crusaders this summer. We also o become better acquainted with these and talented young people during ference week.



### *Drama Unit*

*Clockwise—Jeanne Workman, Jim Miller, Tracy Wilt, Becky Scott, Martha Deardurff*

*Photos of the Arizona Unit and Interns appeared in the July issue (page 29).*

*Photos by Bruce Ronk.*



*II  
Carol French,  
Ellen Bates*



*Camp Bethany Unit  
Left to right—Karen Myers, Linda Waters, Jean  
Slee, Linda Zerbe*



## A Gift of Love

**A Gift of Love** by Gail Magruder (A. J. Holman Company, 1976, 160 pp., \$6.95).

When Jeb Magruder was invited to go into politics full time, he was offered a position as Special Assistant to the President of the United States. In **A Gift of Love**, his wife Gail reveals her reluctance to move to Washington and her dissatisfaction with their home life there because of the demands of White House politics.

After the scandal of Watergate broke and her husband spent many months in court before he was sentenced to prison, the author found that God had heard her prayers. The Magruders learned to know Christ and had fellowship with other believers in Washington. This understanding of God's love and help from Christian friends sustained both of them during his days of prison.

Gail Magruder's revelations about the various members of the press, the courts, and the prisons are both frightening and honest. But the reactions of the four children in the family especially reflect the love within their home.

Although the entire experience was difficult for them all, each member has learned from it and has a more compassionate understanding of other persons, accepting each as an individual, not just part of a group.

This book is well worth reading as it shows not only the pitfalls of "success at any price," but also the real power people have when they give their whole lives to God.

—Marceal Zimmerman, Ashland, Ohio



### Family Possibilities

**Power Ideas for a Happy Family** by Robert H. Schuller (Spire Books, 1976, 128 pp., \$1.50).

Do you have any good advice for people whose family lives are not truly happy? Well, Dr. Robert Schuller (originator of the concept of possibility thinking) has some helpful ideas, and they are presented clearly and compactly in this new paperback from Spire Books. Anyone whose family life is not perfect will find this a challenging collection of excellent advice.

Dr. Schuller, in his first chapter, defines the family as a small group therapy unit, where sharing and caring are the most important functions. He goes on to list seven steps to making your family a successful unit of acceptance and love.

The second chapter is on "The Marriage." Here Dr. Schuller gives ten steps to keeping your marriage happy, dealing with such topics as: pet peeves, courting (even after you're married!), money management, habits, in-laws, and much more.

The third and fourth chapters are entitled "The Wife" and "The Husband." Included in the former are: 1) a section that proves that "the average wife is worth an easy \$185,000 a year"; 2) what a man wants in a woman; and 3) how a wife can create and maintain a positive mental climate in her home. The chapter on husbands covers eight challenging words of wisdom for men about relationships with their wives and children.

Chapters five and six, "The Teen-Agers" and "The Parents," delve into the problems of misunderstanding. Dr. Schuller also gives helpful advice to young people trying to find success in life, and to adults on the fine art of parenthood. The last chapter of the book is specifically for the woman of the home, and was written by Mrs. Schuller.

I enjoyed and profited from the reading of this practical book. Good advice is given throughout, with humor and in an inspiring way. All is based on maintaining a right relationship with God and following His Word. The author first shows that becoming a truly happy family is a possibility, then he shows how you can bring it about in your own home. I felt that Dr. Schuller (who is married and the happy father of five children) really knew what he was talking about. Take a look at **Power Ideas for a Happy Family**, and see if you don't agree.

—Norma Waters, Ashland, Ohio



## Satan's Angels

**Satan's Angels, A Personal Warning!** by Ken Anderson (Thomas Nelson, 1975, paperback, \$3.50).

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6: 11-12).

Did demons exist only in Bible times? Do Satan's angels appear only in primitive mission areas today? Is the occult limited to Satan worshipers in this country? Ken Anderson says, "Satan today does not operate most earnestly in the drug scene. He doesn't find his greatest satisfaction from those who organize 'churches' for his express obedience. His finest people are not the madams at a brothel. Not even the men who make X-rated movies. Satan expends much more effort to that hour between eleven and twelve on Sunday morning. At church. In the pew where you sit."

Ken Anderson has traveled extensively in the production of Christian films, and in his new book he tells about his own learning experiences concerning the reality of Satan today. **Satan's Angels, A Personal Warning!** is more than personal experiences. In one chapter Anderson asks the question, "How did a perfect God ever permit imperfection to occur?" In another he comments on God's plan for "Victorious Christian Living."

I recommend it because of its thought-provoking comments and interesting style.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

## Parables and History

**Behind History** by Ray C. Stedman (Word, 1976, 166 pp., \$4.95).

Throughout the ages men have been searching for the meaning of history. Even the facts have been difficult to discover at times. The principles of history are some of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. Christ told of these secrets through parables in Matthew 13. Within this discourse, Christ laid forth the principles of history.

Dr. Stedman does not concern himself with the events of history, as such. Rather, he looks at them as results of the principles in Matthew 13. Here the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are detailed. They were spoken in such a way that Christ's disciples might understand. Like His disciples, we may also know these secrets.

Dr. Stedman, however, departs from traditional interpretations of these parables because he says they have been interpreted inconsistently. He reports that in the Scriptures, heaven always referred to evil. Yet the traditional interpretation of this parable links heaven with Christ. Throughout he attempts to present the symbols in these parables in a consistent manner with their uses elsewhere in the Scriptures.

This book is a must for those searching for a more coherent interpretation of the parables of Matthew 13, for it will give you a better look at the total plan of God behind history.

—Stephen Barber, Ashland, Ohio

## New Titles

*From Carlton Press:*

**God Guided My Thoughts** by Ruth DeLozier (1976, 40 pp., \$4.00). Mrs. DeLozier, a member of the Park Street church in Ashland, shares a collection of her poetry with the purpose of showing her firm belief that life can be meaningful.

*From Regal Books:*

**Liberated for Life** by John F. MacArthur, Jr., (1976, 144 pp., \$1.45). "A Bible Commentary for Laymen" on Paul's epistle to the Galatians by a gifted Bible teacher.

*From Tyndale House:*

**Let Me Be a Woman** by Elisabeth Elliot (1976, 190 pp., \$5.95). Writing on the meaning of womanhood, Mrs. Elliot combines her observations and experiences in a series of essays on male-female relationships.

**The Right to Live; The Right to Die** by Dr. C. Everett Koop (1976, 128 pp., \$2.95). Dr. Koop, a highly respected pediatric surgeon and articulate Christian, presents the real issues of abortion and euthanasia with surgical precision. His stance is unashamedly pro-life. (See page 10 for editorial comments.)

*From Victor Books:*

**Anybody Here Know Right From Wrong?** by Bill Stearns (1976, \$1.25). The author attempts to guide young people in understanding ethics and morality through application of biblical principles.

**Get Your Career in Gear** by John William Zehring (1976, \$1.95). A vocational guidance book for Christians choosing a career, entering the employment market for the first time, or seeking a greater vocational challenge. Author is director of career planning and placement at Earlham College.

**What Every Christian Should Know About Growing** by LeRoy Eims (1976, \$1.95; leader's guide available at \$.95). Eims, director of evangelism worldwide for the Navigators, gives vital, basic steps to Christian discipleship. Intended for group study as well as for personal reading and growth.

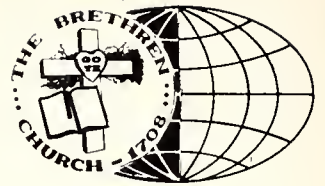
*From Word Books:*

**Dialogue With Death** by Dr. Abraham Schmitt (1976, \$5.95). Designed to ease or remove the sting of the dread of death, the book is intended for those facing death themselves, those living with dying loved ones, and those who deal with both groups on a professional basis (ministers, health care workers, and so forth).

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*The Brethren Evangelist welcomes book reviews from its readers. Reviews should be typed, double-spaced, and average 200-250 words in length. Include title, author, publisher, year of publication, number of pages, and cost. Reviews of books published most recently will be given priority.*





# John

His mother called him "Natawa" which means "What have I seen?" inferring that maybe he would die, or maybe he would live. We have seen him live—live a productive life—and live his life for the Lord.

Some Brethren churches were fortunate enough to have John Guli visit them in 1973 when he was part of a four-man team representing the church in Nigeria upon the 50th anniversary of mission outreach by the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria. This summer John also visited some Brethren churches and attended district conferences where possible. He plans to attend Conference at Ashland, Ohio, in August as well as Church of the Brethren Conference in Kansas.

John Guli received his education at Kulp Bible School and at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria. He then returned to the Higi area performing ministerial tasks for a dozen congregations. He was assigned to translate the New Testament into Higi with Wycliffe translator Roger Mohrlang of Nebraska. Having been set apart by the church in the Michika area, he began his full-time translation work with Mohrlang in

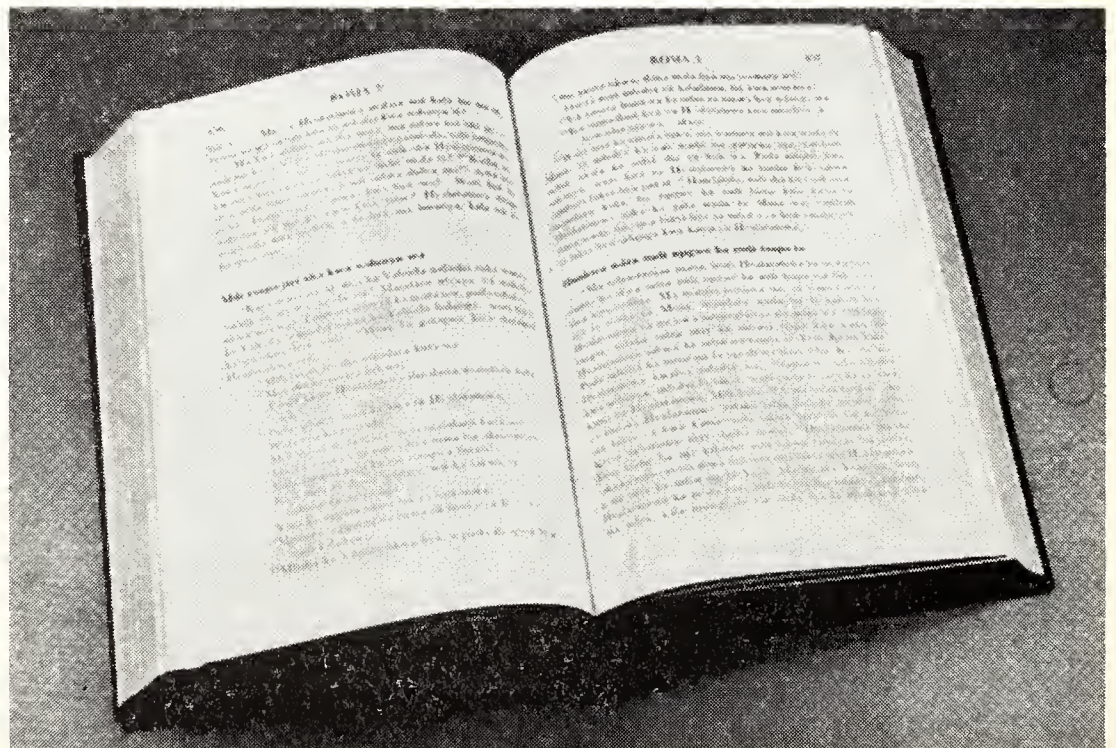
1969. He received further training through the Institute of Linguistics and the United Bible Societies as the team continued the translation effort.

John came to the United States for the second time in September 1975 in order to study at the School of World Missions of the Fuller Theological Seminary. He has been an outstanding student and will return in September 1976 for further study. He anticipates returning to his home in Nigeria in late December.

Plans had been made for a January 1, 1976, ceremony for dedicating the New Testament printed in the language of the Higi people. The dedication was a high point for Wycliffe in Nigeria, and it was a special thrill when John was able to fly to Nigeria for the special program.

Between 5,000 and 6,000 persons gathered for the service, which included prayers by several Christian leaders, accounts of how the gospel came to the area and how translation work started, greetings from denominational leaders, and traditional Higi dances. Mr. Richard Bergman, Wycliffe branch director in Nigeria, brought greetings and

*A copy of the Higi New Testament can be seen at the Missionary Board office in Ashland, Ohio.*





presented John with a special copy of the Higi New Testament. He also acknowledged the part that the World Home Bible League had in publishing the volume.

Encouraging reports continue to come from the Higi area of the people's enthusiasm in being able to read directly from the Higi translation and not having to translate orally from Hausa (a related language) for other Higi listeners. Higi is the heart-language of more than 100,000 people who live along the Nigeria-Cameroon border. The Higi work is the 56th New Testament translated or co-translated around the world by Wycliffe workers to be dedicated. Eager Higi Christians of Nigeria bought more than 2,300 copies of the New Testament within two months after the volume was dedicated.

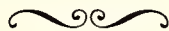
Through its world mission outreach, the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church is contributing toward the support and schooling of John Guli. His return to Nigeria in a place of leadership will be most beneficial

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**"We have seen him live—live a productive life—and live his life for the Lord."**

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to the church, and we are pleased to have a part in this investment for the future. Indeed, the possibilities are great! Your gifts sent to the Missionary Board will be applied to John's expenses while traveling on deputation and for his continuing educational program this fall.



## MISSIONARY UPDATE

The Ken Solomon family returned to the United States from Colombia, South America, on May 28. Having completed their first three-year term, they will be furloughing until late August.

Presently, the Solomons are residing in the Missionary Home (705 Grant St., Ashland) after spending time with Tim and Becky, their oldest son and daughter, in Sarasota. They also attended Becky's wedding there on June 12. Younger son and daughter Joel and Margaret will be traveling with Ken and Jeannette on deputation work this summer.

Juan Carlos Miranda has been appointed the new Director of Hispanic Ministries of the Fuller Evangelistic Association of Pasadena, California. This special assignment will be for a two- to three-year period as Juan develops a Latin American church growth department for the association for work among Spanish-speaking people in the United States and in Latin America. He is being loaned by the Missionary Board, which continues to provide for his salary and related benefits.

The Miranda family is presently living at 1594 N. Allan St., Apt. 24, Pasadena, Calif. 91104, arriving there in late June.

## He Shared His Best

**by Juan C. Miranda**

In today's world most of us do share some of our possessions. When it comes to church related organizations, that sharing often becomes "giving away" things. Quite often we do not give the best; rather, we give something of little value or items for which we no longer have a need. If you don't think this is true, just look around some church basements, campgrounds, or mission fields.

However, I have a friend who shared with our family, not the second or the third best things, but his very best. For a couple of months we were inseparable; we rode many miles together. We visited churches, friends, relatives, and doctors, and everywhere we went his loan to us was our constant companion. It was just like having our friend himself with us.

Our friend told us once, "Since I cannot do the missionary work myself, the least I can do is let my possessions do the work in my place." This thinking is probably what makes the difference between being willing to share our best or our leftovers. Maybe we would be more missionary-minded if we could put thoughts like this into action.

Being the best, it never failed us. It helped us be on time and never let us down on a lonely road or late at night after a missionary conference or meetings. It was roomy enough for the whole family and always ready. It was really most helpful. We never could have purchased anything similar for the three months we were to be on deputation without taking a large financial loss. But because a brother has a large missionary heart and decided to share with us, we did not have the financial loss, and we accomplished what our Missionary Board had set for us to do.

Well, you too may have your chance to share. There will be other missionaries coming for a three month's deputation who, like us, will need a friend—a brother to share.

Let the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church know that you are willing to share, too. It may not require your latest or best, so long as it is dependable. Let your possessions be a means of serving.

Try it! You will enjoy it and God will bless you for doing it. Oh! You want to know who our friend is and what he shared with us? (See the photo at the bottom of the next page.)



# missions: **BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT**

## Shared Joy

As I have grown older I have discovered something about family relationship, both through the tie with my own parents and now that with my son and daughter. This discovery is the joy shared when offspring receive praise and honor. Is there any happiness greater than that felt by a parent upon hearing something good, some accomplishment, some contribution made by a son or daughter?

Brethren House is the offspring of the Brethren Church. Both its Bible base and the freedom experienced in this place to express God's love in ways deemed appropriate and effective by the ministers here are uniquely Brethren.

Since the Brethren Church is the parent, we, the offspring, would like to share some comments sent our way recently. Brethren money has supported this work; Brethren prayers and interest have sustained it. So we want to share with you, the parents, these comments.

Please understand that we share these with you only because of your investment in this work. With you, we give God the praise that we can be his instruments used here. And we thank God for your trust that allows us the freedom to seek and express God's love as we have.

The ministry of Brethren House is . . . unique and timely. I have had my vision of Christian education enlarged and have found encouragement in this area of pastoral responsibility by personal exposure to this ministry. Our Sunday school was in a declining condition, and our teachers were discouraged. We sought the counsel of the Brethren House staff. . . . The response was positive and immediate. . . . Brethren House methods and materials are held in high regard in this area. They are respected and used interdenominationally. This ministry certainly has a good name among United Methodists in Florida. In my opinion,

Brethren House can become the center of the most creative Christian education in evangelical Christianity. . . . I believe that they have come into the Kingdom for a time such as this. (Rev. Charles Kinder, pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Pinellas Park where we are regular part-time consultants)

I do want you to know how our brief contacts with Brethren House have changed our lives and given us a deep feeling of thankfulness to the Lord for willing workers like the three of you. Our past contact with your work led my life back to Christ, and I praise His name for it. Our children received so much from each of you and your programs. . . . I have become personally involved with Child Evangelism in our community but miss, and see a definite need for, a Brethren House caring-and-sharing concept in every neighborhood. (Mrs. Jan Kamp, a former neighbor and helper)

You know that with few exceptions, I have been at Brethren House every week (for the past eight years). What is the attraction? Simply that I like the way the children are taught, and I like the way I have been taught, and now I find that . . . other churches in St. Petersburg (including the largest one) are calling on little Brethren House to help them with their teaching. . . . There are several children in the neighborhood whose development would have been quite different were it not for those at Brethren House. (Miss Gretchen French, a regular Sunday attender)

Thank you, Brethren Church, for the vision, the support, and the trust you have given to make Brethren House possible.

—Jean Lersch

*Jim Payne (left), president of the National Laymen's Organization and a member of the Burlington, Ind., church, shared his 1975 Oldsmobile with the Mirandas during their short furlough. Read Juan's account of the story on page 19.*





# auxiliary programs for september

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## sisterhood

*"Developing Spiritual Gifts"*  
written by Ruth Barber  
for Seniors

## A Service of Commitment

Our program this month is a candlelight service. Place one tall, lighted candle at the front of the room. Each member should have a smaller candle that she can light from the tall candle, which represents the light of Christ.

**Leader:** (lighting tall candle): Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Thank you, Jesus, for the light you give to us because we are your children.

**Speaker 1:** God is love, and He puts His love within us when we are His children. Thank you, Jesus, for this love.

**Speaker 2:** When we ask the Lord Jesus to live in our hearts, He puts His Spirit within us to guide us and teach us. Thank you, Lord, for your Spirit within.

**Speaker 3:** Jesus wants us to witness for Him, to serve Him, and to minister to others in His name. He promises to equip us for this task. He says that He will give us the gifts we need to carry out this ministry for Him in the world. Thank you for this promise, Lord.

**Speaker 4:** Thank you, Lord, for those who have the gifts of teaching, preaching, and wisdom.

**Speaker 5:** Thank you for members of the body who have the gift of hospitality, gifts of craftsmanship, or the gifts of ruling and administration.

**Speaker 1:** Thank you for those who have the gift of evangelism.

**Speaker 2:** Thank you for the gift of being able to show and share mercy. May more of us be willing to accept and use this gift.

**Speaker 3:** Thank you for the gift of service. Whether the service be taking soup to a sick person, watching a child for a busy mother, or helping a neighbor roof a house, thank you, Lord, for your children who use this gift of service lovingly and wisely for your glory.

**Speaker 4:** Thank you for the gift of faith so that we can firmly believe and call upon the promises in your Word. Thank you for building us up in faith.

**Speaker 5:** Help us to remember, Lord, that even though we speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not love, it profiteth us nothing.

**Speaker 1:** Help us remember that even though we play the piano beautifully or are good with little children or tend the flower garden at the church, if we do not use these gifts with love, we do not honor you.

**Speaker 2:** May you remind us that whatever we do, we do through Christ and in His strength.

**Speaker 3:** Remind us that the gifts you give us are given to glorify you and to build up the church. These gifts are to be used as a ministry in the local body of Christ.

**Leader:** As we light our candles, Lord, show us two things clearly: show each member her gifts, and teach her how to use each gift wisely for you. (Members light candles)

We will spend a few minutes in silent prayer now, waiting for God to speak to you about your gifts. (Pause) Thank you God for every good and perfect gift. Continue to give us gifts. Perfect them within us so that we might use our gifts to build up the body of Christ. Amen.



written by  
Pauline Benshoff  
for Juniors

## *This Is Your Life!*

One ship drives east and another west,  
While the selfsame breezes blow;  
Tis the set of the sail and not the gale  
That bids them where to go.

Like the winds of the air are the ways of fate,  
As we voyage along through life;  
Tis the set of the soul that decides the goal,  
And not the storms or the strife.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

**Singspiration Time:** (Choose an enthusiastic song leader and sing your favorite hymns and choruses. Try learning some new ones.)

**Leader:** This is your life, and it soon will pass; only what's done for Christ will last. To really see how we should live and walk each day, let us analyze the way Christ walked. His walk signified His life. The way we live each day also testifies of the value we place on living the Christian life. As we begin a new year of SMM, let's decide to improve our lives.

### **I. Christ Walked To Glorify the Father**

He sought not His own glory but that only of His Father. He said, "I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me" (John 6:38). If we abide in Him, we ought to walk as He walked, placing God first, others second, and ourselves last.

### **II. He Walked with a Passion for Lost Souls**

This was why He came: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He gave up everything to do this. What have you given up recently so that you could witness to a lost friend about Christ? We must be concerned for others. Why is that so hard for us to do? If you are the Christian you profess to be, your example will not spoil your testimony. Others do not listen to our "talk" if we are not consistent in our "walk." Never give up trying to reach the unsaved. Learn early to be a soul winner. Ask your pastor to help you.

### **III. He Walked in an Attitude of Prayerfulness**

If Jesus needed to pray, how much more do we! To be strong in Christian principles, you will have to pray; if you don't, your weakness will be revealed openly to your friends and loved ones. This doesn't mean you walk around with your eyes closed, but while you are walking along, working, or riding in the car or on the bus, let

your mind be praying for lost ones in your family, lost friends, your pastor and his wife, your missionaries, and even yourself (pray that He will lead you to prepare your life and use it for His glory, as He intended it to be). As my husband and I travel, I pray for the people in the cars, trucks, buses, and planes. None of us knows what good Christ can be doing in their lives that very moment.

### **IV. He Lived According to the Scriptures**

We cannot live a Christ-like life without knowing the Bible that reveals that life to us. Search the Scriptures, for in them we find eternal life. If you read them faithfully, you will find peace of mind, joy, a love for your family, and a desire to be obedient to those in authority over you. The Scriptures will also help you live like Christ and for Him. "He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked" (1 John 2:6).

**Leader:** It is your life. But when Christ came into your heart and you claimed Him as your Savior, then you became God's property. You were bought with a price, the price of the blood paid on Calvary. Let's not be less than Christ made us to be.

There are four little letters that spell a very difficult word, a word none of us enjoys doing. But using a phrase for each letter will help you to live a pleasing life for Him:

Watching for His return

Active, so as to be occupying when He comes  
Interested in seeing that others are ready for  
His coming

Trusting that He will come, refusing to doubt  
His promise.

**Business**

**Benediction**



## Are We Holy?

During one of the midweek Bible studies in our church recently, there was a discussion as to whether or not we, as born-again believers, are holy people. Some felt that they could not call

### sisterhood

#### General Secretary's Notes

Dear Sisters,

I guess by this time many of you are busy getting ready to come to Conference. I am anxious for it, and to see you all.

As I write now and recall this day, missions have been on my mind. I saw two of the Summer Crusader teams leave town to begin their summer ministry. Those kids are missionaries for the summer, commissioned to a hard task, but excited about serving the Lord. I have also heard the Ken Solomon family and spoken to them of their two and a half years of work in Colombia. Their work is very difficult and frustrating. But they are excited about it and anxious to see what else God has in store for the Brethren Church in Colombia.

Sisterhood was organized as a mission-oriented group. Mrs. Delbert Flora will tell us about this when she speaks Tuesday afternoon at Conference. Today Sisterhood doesn't seem to have much purpose, for we have drifted away from most of the mission work. We want to get back into helping missions, with more than our meager project offering.

I hope that: 1) we will have lots of bandages to roll during the meetings; 2) we will begin keeping in touch with our missionary families; and 3) we will support our mission project better than we have the past few years. It seems like we've hardly even cared for our missionaries. Think how much we support the Summer Crusaders—with money, prayers, plus food and housing sometimes. But what do we give our full-time, year-round missionaries? A little money and a few general prayers for "all the missionaries."

Rev. Virgil Ingraham will share with us about our place in mission work, and the Sisterhood board has some practical ideas to help us all share more in the lives of our missionary families during 1976-77. We want you to share your ideas, too. So begin thinking about missions before you get to Conference. As we discuss this subject, I hope you become as excited about this as I am. We'll be waiting to hear from you.

Your sister in Christ,  
Nancy Ronk

themselves holy. I believe that the consensus was that we are not holy in the same sense that we think of the holiness of our Lord. Certainly, we are not perfect, for there was only One who was perfect on this earth—our Lord Jesus.

But are we not made holy when we are sanctified by the blood of Christ? We read of sanctification in the Old and the New Testaments. "Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the Lord which sanctify you" (Leviticus 20:7, 8).

In His high priestly prayer, Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth" (John 17:17-19).

Paul, in writing to the church at Corinth, addressed the group as follows: "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints" (I Corinthians 1:2).

So you see, if we are sanctified in Christ Jesus, we are called to be saints, and therefore must become holy. This is not to say that we immediately become as holy as we should be. For most of us, this is no doubt a lifelong process. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (II Corinthians 7:1).

After putting off the old man, we are to "put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24).

All these passages of Scripture, and many others, exhort us to live a holy life. As I mentioned before, this does not come about automatically after we accept Christ as Lord and Savior. We must continually strive to become more holy and perfect, as our Lord would have us to be. We must put away those things which are not pleasing to God. When we are tempted to do that which we know is wrong, we must go to the Lord in prayer and then yield ourselves more fully to the guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit, who will give us the strength to withstand the temptation.

It is wonderful to know that we can look forward to the time that we will be made perfect in Christ Jesus, "whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (Colossians 1:28).



# signal lights

written by  
Alberta Holsinger

**Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus**

## From Nazareth to Jerusalem

"I see it! I see it!" shouted Jesus.

"I see it, too," shouted each of the other children.

Then they ran back along the road to their mothers and fathers.

"We saw the dome of the temple," they said. "We are almost to Jerusalem. Hurry, so we get there before dark."

Jesus and Mary and Joseph and many friends from Nazareth were on their way to Jerusalem. There they would worship God in the beautiful temple.

Jesus had been in the temple once before. He didn't remember it, though, because He had been just six weeks old. Mary and Joseph had taken Him to the temple for a special service. They wanted to thank God for this wonderful baby boy.

Jesus knew much about the temple. He knew it had been built by wise King Solomon. He knew it had been destroyed by enemy soldiers but rebuilt again. He knew it was a beautiful temple. He knew one felt very close to God when worshiping there.

Each year Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem. When they returned they told Jesus about the services. Now He was 12 years old—old enough to make the trip to Jerusalem with His parents and friends. No wonder He was happy! No wonder He was excited!

It was 60 miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem. Some of the people walked. Others rode donkeys. At noon they sat down by the side of the road to eat lunch. At night they spread rugs on the ground and slept under the starry sky.

Now their journey was almost over. Ahead they could see the dome of the temple. They began singing, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the House of the Lord.'" Joyfully they entered the city gates. Reverently they went to the temple to worship.

The special services lasted a week. Then it was time to start home again. Jesus was not with Mary and Joseph as they traveled that first day. They thought He was walking with some of their friends.

That evening when they stopped, Mary and Joseph went from one group to another asking, "Is Jesus with you? Have you seen Jesus?"

Each time the answer was, "No, Jesus is not with us. We have not seen Him."

Mary and Joseph started back to Jerusalem. It took them a whole day to get there. Along the way and everywhere in the city they asked, "Have you seen our Jesus? He's 12 years old. He's a fine tall strong boy."

Always the answer was the same: "No, I haven't seen Him."

It was now three days since they had seen Jesus. Mary and Joseph were very worried. At last they went to the temple. And what do you think! There was Jesus!

He was asking questions of the temple teachers and answering questions they asked Him. The teachers were surprised that a boy 12 years old could know so much about God.

When Mary told Him how they had looked for Him, Jesus said, "I'm sorry you were worried. I thought you would know I would be in God's House."

Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph. There He continued to grow taller and wiser and pleasing to God.

—Based on Luke 2:40-52



(Note to Patroness: Be sure to pick up your copy of "Suggestions and Crafts for Signal Lights" at General Conference.)

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**Memory Time:** And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52



# A New Project

David and Jenny Loi are our missionaries to Malaysia.

Do you know where Malaysia is? Let's look at a map. (Point to the following locations on a map. A world map or globe would be best so the children can see where Malaysia is in relation to the United States.)

This large island is Borneo. The northern section is part of Malaysia. It is divided into two states—Sarawak and Sabah. Both David and Jenny grew up in Sibü, Sarawak.

The other part of Malaysia is 400 miles west across the South China Sea. This southern part of the Malay Peninsula is a third state. And this small island, Penang, off the west coast of the peninsula, is also a state. There are 13 states altogether.

About half of the people who live in Malaysia are short, brown-skinned people called Malays. About one-third of the other people are Chinese.

David and Jenny are Chinese. Although their home is in the state of Sarawak, they are establishing a Brethren mission point across the South China Sea, across West Malaysia, on the island of Penang (just off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula). Many Chinese live on this island.

Most Chinese worship their ancestors or Buddha or Confucius. David and Jenny want to tell them about the true God and His Son Jesus, the living Savior.

We can help them. Our mission offering this year will be used by David and Jenny as they teach the boys and girls of Penang.

Let's pray for our Brethren missionaries in Malaysia, and let's share our spending money to help them tell the children of God's love.



David and Jenny Loi

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## My First-Time Confession

(continued from page 8)

it will now be augmented by a number of lay people who have greater vision, faith, and enthusiasm for church growth. We had a very good beginning together, and the results should begin to show more clearly in the near future.

I was especially impressed and encouraged by the desire of the lay people to be involved in productive church work, of seeing their churches spring into new life for new growth. Let us all encourage one another and pray one for another in these days when growth is such a possibility and such a need.

—Brian Moore



# finally, brethren

## On being on the wrong end of a grand piano . . .

Back during the summers of our days in Huntington, New York, when I was a much younger man, our Presbyterian church held "evangelistic services" in the local park. The park had been donated by a Mr. Hecksher, who had also given a museum in which he had placed many of the artifacts and objects d'art that he had accumulated in his travels around the world. The museum had a grand piano, and as we set up our small "orchestra" and P.A. system on Sunday evenings, one of our tasks was to move the grand piano onto the slate patio in front of the museum.

The difficulty was that the grand piano just about made it through the glass and wrought iron doors, and as anyone knows who has tried to move one, it takes a considerable number of men (or very strong women) to move a grand piano.

One Sunday, perhaps in 1951 or 1952, I was at one end of the grand piano as it went through the door. But on this particular evening all of the other people seemed to be holding on the sides of the piano. Consequently, as it went through the door, they had to let go. For a few seconds I was left holding the end. My 155-pound frame was just not up to the task. Something in my back suddenly felt extremely uncomfortable and very much out of place.

And thus began a long odyssey of what has commonly been called my "back problem." I discovered I had joined a fraternity. When we moved to Grand Rapids we even had a club for bad backs. The person who had the worst condition was the

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"Something in my back suddenly felt extremely uncomfortable and very much out of place."

---

president. (The man who made it permanently was someone who had to have two steel pins put in to keep his back in place.)

I suffered with that back for many years. For two years I had to wear a support that made me feel like I was strapped into a bullet-proof shell. Meanwhile, I did exercises that would hopefully relieve me of the necessity of having to wear it! Finally the day did come, and with the exception of special occasions during the next five or six years, I was set free from that monster of cloth and steel. I haven't worn it now in over ten years.

But it didn't end there. Every morning, without fail, it is necessary for me to go through a series of exercises to keep my back muscles in shape and keep that back stable. I can skip those exercises for two days, perhaps three, but after the fourth

by Ed Dayton

day the discomfort sets in, and I know very well that I must go back to that regimen of constant exercise in order to remain functional and on my feet. It doesn't matter how late I've been up the night before (though how hard it is to exercise is a good measure of how much sleep I've had). It has nothing to do with where I am around the world or whether there is a convenient place. There is no way out. I have to get down on the floor and do 30 sit-ups, 30 bottom-ups, and 30 leg-ups if I am going to keep that back where it belongs.

I wish that weren't so. I wish I had all the muscle tone and body build of the Charles Atlas pictures that I used to see as a boy. But a weak back I have, and I suppose a weak back I'll have till the day I die.

Is there a Godly view of weakness? Are those daily exercises a well-needed reminder that this body in which I now dwell is a transitory thing? Is there strength in such weakness?

I've learned to live with the physical weakness. It's my spiritual weakness I don't like to acknowledge. It's of such a subtle variety. I wish there were early warning signs, like those twinges in my back. Unfortunately, there are not. I just have to keep exercising. So right now I have a blank book my daughter Leigh gave for Christmas. I'm at a point in my life where I seem to need the discipline of praying by writing. I find as I write out my daily conversation with the Lord and list those things I need to discuss with Him, that somehow I stay in better shape. But as I look back through the pages I see a lot of missing days. I don't know why I didn't come before the Lord. I just didn't. I don't feel guilty about it. The Lord and I are too close for that. It's a feeling of sadness, of letting down a friend.

I'd be happy if you'd pray for my back. But if you remember, pray that I'll work on the spiritual exercise. In the long run I suspect it will make more difference.

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*Ed Dayton is director of the Missions Advanced Research & Communication Center, a ministry of World Vision.*





# PARTNERS

Life is full of steps. He gets along just fine with the little ones. It's those big steps that give him problems.

But this time he's found a helping hand.

Young churches also face a world full of steps. They can handle the regular financial needs without too much difficulty. But when it comes time for that big step to purchase property or construct a new facility, that's another story.

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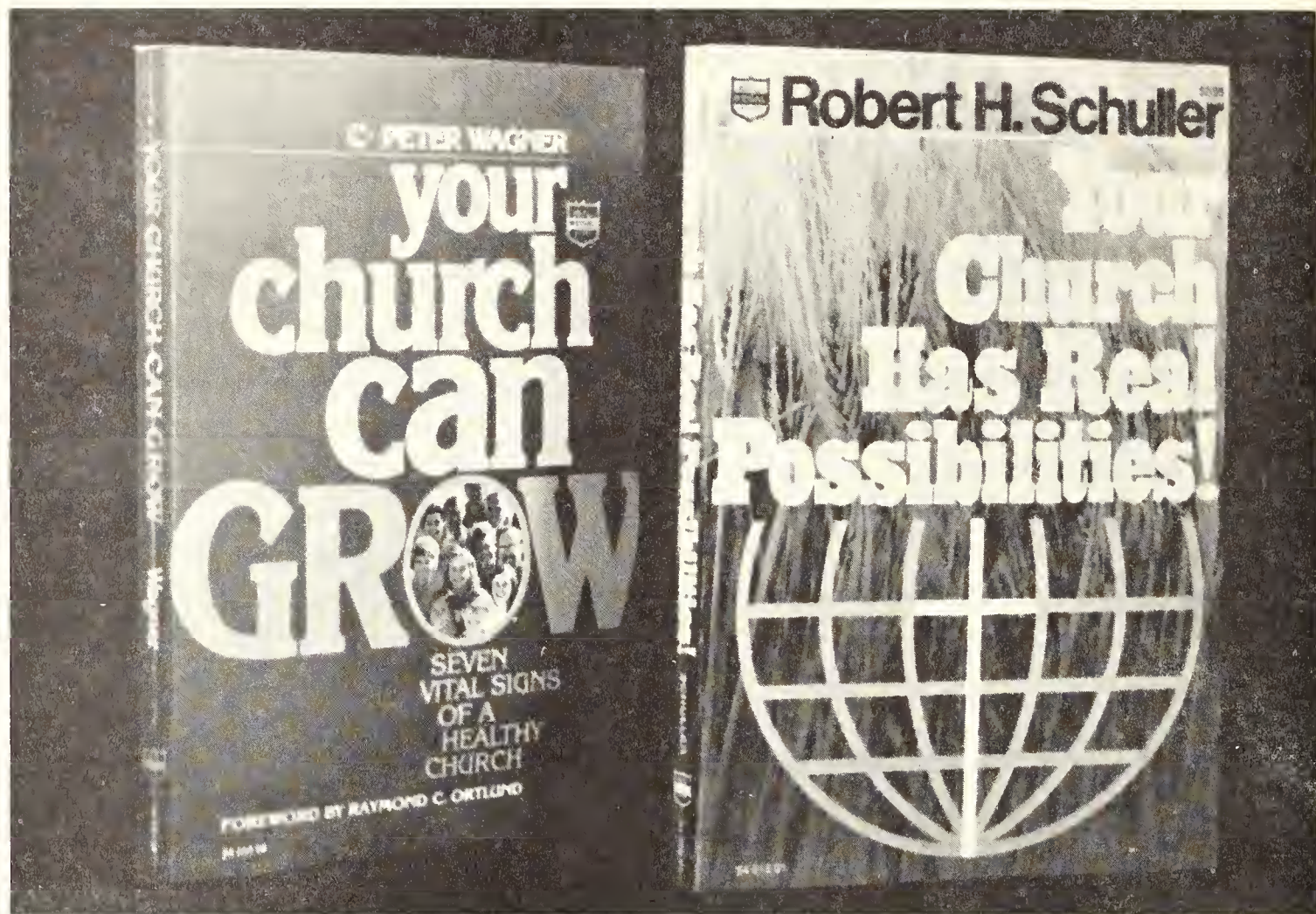
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## *The Brethren* **EVANGELIST**

*September 1976*





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**4 "It Can Be Done—So Do It!"**

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**7 Three Secrets of Church Growth**

*"Everyone likes to feel 'in' on a secret." Chuck Mylander exposes three of them that could unlock the door to further growth for your church.*

**10 Brethren Publications: Real Possibilities**

*The total change in the Brethren Publishing Company has been revolutionary, as the board of trustees, the staff, and the members of the Brethren Church have begun to see new horizons.*

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**editor's notes**

Dear Brethren,

It was good to see so many of you again at General Conference. I hope you found the week as uplifting and spiritually fulfilling as I did. My only regret is that I did not have more time to talk with each of you.

Beginning on page 18 you will find an extensive report on General Conference. If you were not able to be present in person, I trust you will read the reports carefully. What excitement you miss from the written page you can pick up from the delegates from your church.

I am especially indebted to those busy folks who took time to write the reports for publication. They included Nancy Ronk, Phil Lersch, Bev Summy, Mickey Mellinger, Grace Grumbling, Mark Baker, Norma Waters, and Larry Bolinger. And Bruce Ronk's roving camera has added the necessary visual punch to the reports.

Pages 10 through 14 contain a progress report on the Brethren Publishing Company. Be sure to read these pages.

Until next month,  
Ron Waters

MEMBER  EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION



# "It Can Be Done-- So Do It"

by Russ Gordon

JESUS CHRIST has done it again! Demonstration of His faithfulness to His people has taken place. This is more than a news account—it is a personal testimony of the members of the Bradenton, Florida, Brethren Church.

God reveals His will to men with a vision today, just as He did to Noah, Moses, Paul, and John. Three years ago a group of laymen and their wives met with Dr. J. D. Hamel, pastor of the First Brethren Church in Sarasota, Florida. Sharing what God had revealed to them, plans were made to begin a Brethren church in the Bradenton area, where most of these laymen lived. They believed that God had made His revelation clear.

After God reveals His will, it is up to His people to **respond**; and this they did. The response of the Sarasota church and its pastor was to encourage and to willingly give up leaders and teachers to begin a new church. Also, a step of faith was taken financially to support the work as a part of the mission outreach to the world. Thus, this mother-daughter relationship began. The response of the Bradenton people became one of trusting the Lord to lead and guide.

These positive responses then led to positive realities. The first reality to God's faithfulness was finding a meetingplace

which had facilities for Sunday school rooms, worship services, and fellowship activities. The South County Recreation Center fulfilled these needs for three years. A minimal charge for electricity and a Sunday morning "clean up" exercise of a gymnasium full of chairs and tables was the only cost to us.

The second reality was the beginning of the regular Sunday morning services on May 27, 1973. Rev. William Ross, then assistant pastor of the Sarasota church, conducted these services, and the laymen of the Bradenton church held the Wednesday evening services.

The next reality was the church's decision to call a full-time pastor and to purchase a parsonage. In January 1974 my family and I arrived in Bradenton to begin serving the pastoral function for the church.

Sunday and Wednesday evening services were held in the homes of various members. As the group grew it became necessary to use living rooms, bedrooms, porches, and campers. (We joked about being a portable church.) Everything from lecturn to crayons and flannelboards were carried in and out for each service. A piano was purchased and used in the Recreation Center for the Sunday morning services. It was the only thing that we did not have to move.

*The members of the Bradenton Brethren Church dedicated their new facility on Easter Sunday. They are already making plans for future growth, both in members, facilities, and new churches.*



Photo by Arden Gilmer



**“The members displayed this motto in their homes to remind them of the Lord’s promises and power.”**

The church began to grow spiritually and numerically. The people of the community began to respond to the outreach efforts of the church, and changed lives became a further evidence of God’s working.

As we experienced joys and thrills, we also faced some testing of our faith. But we read in Luke 18:27 in the Living Bible that “God can do what man can’t!” and in Philippians 4:13 that “I can do all things God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power!”

These two passages of Scripture became the basis of every decision we made as a congregation and as individuals. The motto “It Can Be Done—So Do It” was adopted. The members displayed this motto in their homes to remind them of the Lord’s promises and power.

From 26 charter members, the attendance grew in each service. So far this year our Sunday morning worship service attendance has averaged 81. On Easter Sunday we saw another reality, the dedication of our new church building with 171 people attending. Dr. J. D. Hamel brought the sermon of dedication.

The **rewards** of having a new building did not come easily. Ground was broken in the first part of September 1975, and then the work began. A local contractor was given the job of putting the slab in, raising the walls, and installing the roof. After that it was up to us to get the job finished.

We will never be able to fully thank those who helped finish the building. The National Laymen were responsible for a group of men and women coming down from some of the northern Brethren churches to help in the work. To these people we extend a hearty thank you!

God also made available the talents and abilities of many people in our Sarasota

church. Labor, materials, and time were donated to an astounding degree. Even businessmen who were not Christians were used by God.

Easter Sunday was set as the goal for completion of the building. That’s when Satan really started working overtime. For instance, we were suddenly faced by hard-hearted building inspectors. A whole shipment of windows was stolen one evening. Three thousand dollars worth of carpeting was received in the wrong color. And a national trucking strike stalled shipments of chairs and tables along the way.

But, praise the Lord, when we trusted Him, He worked everything out to perfection. Just three days before our scheduled dedication, final inspections were completed by men who had been softened by the Lord. The final cleaning was done, sod was put down, and flowers and shrubbery were planted.

What an Easter we celebrated! We knew the reality of our faithful Lord and Savior, and we rejoiced at the rewards brought about by the faithfulness of so many.

Since our dedication day we have held our spring communion service in the new building. Also, as a result of a church growth seminar held in March by Arden Gilmer, we have formed a church growth task force which meets on alternate Sunday evenings. One result of the work of the task force has been an open house for the community one Saturday afternoon and evening. We are also having a special fellowship night the last Sunday of each month with some kind of special program.

And we have set goals for the future: 300 members in five years; a new sanctuary seating 500 and conversion of our present building into Christian educational facilities; and the planting of another new Brethren church in the area.

Can we accomplish these goals? Yes! “It Can Be Done—So Do It!”

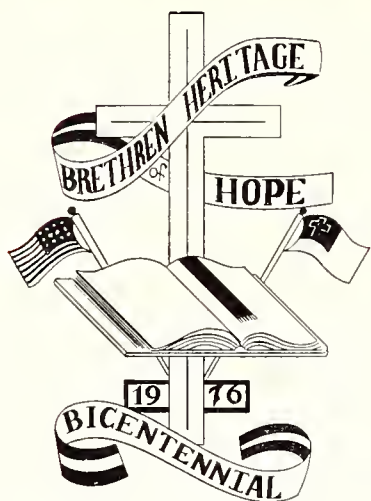
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*Russ Gordon has pastored the Bradenton church since January 1974. Previously he served the Ft. Scott, Kans., and Williamstown, Ohio, churches.*

Bible verses from **The Living Bible** (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 1971) are used by permission.



# **Midwest District Conference of Brethren Churches**



**First Brethren Church  
Fort Scott, Kansas**

**Thursday, October 7 to  
Saturday, October 9, 1976**

**Inspirational Speaker: Dr. Charles Munson**  
**Professor at Ashland Theological Seminary**

**Pastor Larry R. Baker, Moderator**  
**Pastor Buck D. Garrett, Vice Moderator**

Housing reservations should be sent in care of First Brethren Church, 505 S. National Avenue, Fort Scott, Kansas 66701.

# **Southeastern District Conference**

**September 23-25, 1976**

**Massanetta Springs**

**Dr. Charles Munson**  
speaker

**Historical Presentations**  
by local churches

**Help celebrate our "Heritage of Hope!"**

*(announcements courtesy of the Brethren Evangelist)*



EVERYONE likes to feel "in" on a secret. If the secret makes a Christian or a church more productive, it's invaluable. I believe there are three secrets in church growth.

The first secret of growth is to mobilize your growth-producing people, your Class II leaders, who are most often found among new Christians who engage in spontaneous witnessing or among mature Christians who have the gift of evangelism. I find, however, that other gifts work in well if you think of Class II leaders in three categories.

The first category is "recruiters," the ones who get others inside your church doors. There's a man named Ken in our church who is a "recruiter." If you're a man in Ken's neighborhood, you go down to Ken's garage to find out where the action is because that's where the action is. While talking to Ken, soon he mentions, "The action really is at the Rose Drive Friends Church." So family after family have come down to find where the action is and have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior.

Most of our recruiting is spontaneous, but there are other structured things we do. One is to send out a mailing which tells a

## **Secret 1:** **mobilize** **growth-producing** **people**

little about the church and the particular activity we are emphasizing. To recruit effectively, you need to pick up on your strengths and emphasize them. In a study of four different churches, in terms of effective evangelism, I found that each church had a different area of strength which made that church attractive to the non-Christian.

The second kind of Class II leaders are evangelists, those who pray with others to receive Christ. We have a lot of evangelism going on, but it works in different ways. We have a visitation program where the emphasis is on the training, not the method. Another way is the pastor's class for people who are interested in joining the church.

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*Charles Mylander is associate pastor of the Rose Drive Friends Church in California. He received his doctor of ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary. This article is a condensation of an extemporaneous address given at an Advanced Church Growth Seminar in January 1976.*

# THREE SECRETS of CHURCH GROWTH

The third category is the incorporators. In church growth, we are not only interested in decisions, but in disciples and having them become responsible members of the church. Incorporators simply love other people into the fellowship by drawing them in.

The second secret of church growth is to build morale, and the key to building morale is leadership. There is a direct relationship between the morale of the church and its growth rate.

One morale builder is solving problems. Of the four churches I studied, each had a different way of solving problems. To use an analogy, picture being at a swimming hole where someone is in making waves. How does each pastor handle the guy who is making waves? The first one muddied the water. Have you ever tried to make waves in muddy water? When conflicts come up, he has a gift of speaking in generalities. He does it in such an inspirational way that everyone leaves feeling better even though the problem itself seems less clear.

The second pastor pours oil on the water. He takes a conciliatory approach and smoothes ruffled feathers. Somehow he knows how to be conciliatory and help everyone pull together, even with many different strong personalities doing their own thing in his church.

The third church had two co-pastors who had entirely opposite approaches. One would go around saying, "I really feel badly that this fellow is making waves in here, don't

*(continued on next page)*

**by Chuck Mylander**



you?" and then stand back and watch as the others pulled together to take care of the wavemaker themselves. The other would simply dunk the guy: direct confrontation.

The fourth pastor acts as a lifeguard. He blows the whistle and says, "Come out, I want to talk to you." Putting his arm on his shoulder, he says, "We really want you to

## **Secret 2:** **build** **morale**

be happy. There are lots of swimming holes around here. If you don't like this one, why don't you go downstream a ways."

Besides these problem-solving methods, another key in solving problems is belief in God—believing that God will work miraculously in terms of producing growth. We pray for everything else, but how often do we pray for growth? Growing churches have pastors who are men of faith and expectancy which catches on with their people.

Another morale builder is to believe in your congregation—to constantly thank and praise them. Set a positive tone, one that is creative and solution oriented. Concentrate on goals, achievements, loyalty, and focus on helping others. Nothing builds morale more than new Christians. Morale builds through good experiences, great expectations, and genuine achievements.

The third secret of church growth is to avoid strangulation. Some ways to strangle your church's growth are spiritual, but others are physical or social. Every church has problems, but growing churches have growing problems, the best kind to have. One growing pain is running out of usable space. The rule of thumb is if you are averaging 75 percent of your capacity year round in the classroom, sanctuary, or anywhere else, psychologically your people will stop wanting to grow.

The church will be strangled socially if the need to belong is not being met. For a

child it may mean having a small enough Sunday school class where he can get the teacher's attention. For adults it means that others know them by name, where they are accepted and feel comfortable. The programs of the church must constantly be under review so that they are meeting the needs of the people.

There is also spiritual strangulation. We must have the right priorities starting with God's love which is most clearly seen in Jesus. The gospel of Jesus Christ leads us into evangelism. Our next priority is our response: to love God. Thus, worship and education are the next priorities. The third priority is to love one another—in the area of fellowship, prayer, and sharing. The final priority is to love both your neighbor and enemy—being interested in social concerns and services, the things out in the community which need people.

Structure for growth develops on four levels. First is the church as a whole. People need to feel "This is my church." Second is the congregation, the large groups in your church, where someone will miss you by name if you did not come. The next level is the cell, a support group where people will share intimately on a spiritual level. The final level is that of family. Even singles

## **Secret 3:** **avoid** **strangulation**

should be accepted as family units, and we must take seriously their relationship with other singles as well as their parents and friends.

The main point is this. You may know of one hundred different ways to let your church grow. But if you sit around in indecision, trying to decide which way would be the most effective, nothing will happen. Find one way that works for you and do it.

From the May/June 1976 issue of Church Growth: America and reprinted by permission.

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**"Everyone likes to feel 'in' on a secret. If the secret makes a Christian or a church more productive, it's invaluable."**

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## Discovering the Secrets

These questions are based on Chuck Mylander's article "Three Secrets of Church Growth." They are designed to assist your church growth task force and/or official board in grasping the insights of this article and in making practical applications to your own church. You may need to spend several sessions with these questions, but be tenacious and see the entire project through to completion!

1. What are the three secrets of church growth mentioned in the articles?

2. How many Class II workers do you have in your church? List them by name. (See "Church Growth Forum" in the August 1976 issue of the Brethren Evangelist for definition of Class II workers.)

3. What is a "recruiter"? List by name the recruiters in your church. List people who would be potential recruiters for your church. What plans do you have for helping them get involved in recruiting?

4. What strengths does your church have? How are you emphasizing them to the non-Christians in your community? If you are not, how could you?

5. According to this article what is an "evangelist"? List by name those members of your church who have the gift of evangelism. Some church growth writers suggest that in most churches, approximately 10 percent of the people have the gift of evangelism but many have not yet discovered it. How is your church helping people discover and develop their evangelistic gift?

6. List the different forms of evangelism your church is now doing. What new forms of evangelism should you begin to explore and implement?

7. What is an "incorporator"? List by name the incorporators in your church now. List potential incorporators. Specifically what your church is now doing to incorporate into your church family those who make decisions for Christ.

8. Who exercises leadership in your church? Who should? Describe your church's style of leadership. How does your church solve its problems constructively? What leadership responsibilities does your church expect from your pastor? from the board? from the congregation?

9. List the ways Mylander suggests for building morale. How many of them does your church use? On a scale of 1 to 5, rate the morale of your church. Explain the reasons for your answer.

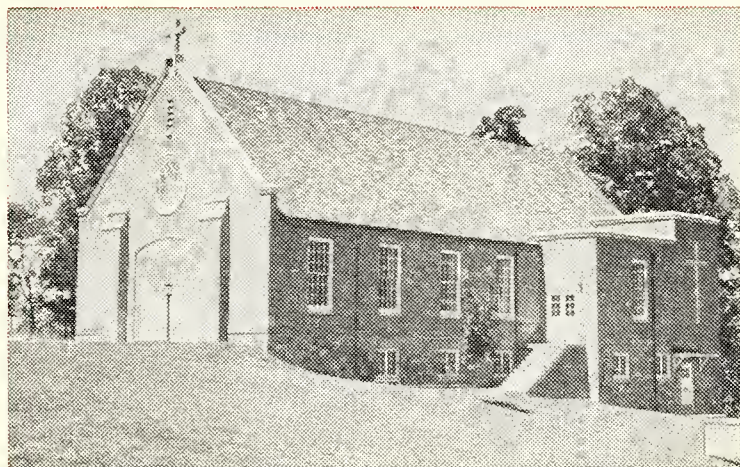
10. List the ways to strangle a church. Make a specific list of any strangulation problems your church has. Discuss possible remedies. Figure the percentage of your average attendance to actual capacity of your physical facilities. How do you rate with regard to the 75 percent theorem? Does your Sunday school have adequate space? Is your sanctuary seating adequate? Do you have surplus parking available? What specific plans does your church have to overcome the spiritual strangulation problems? the physical? the social?

11. List the various programs of your church. Review each program to see if it is meeting the needs of people.

12. What are the priorities of your church? How are you meeting them?

13. List the four levels on which growth structure develops. What specific growth strategies does your church have for each of the four levels?

14. Is your church bogged down by indecision? As a result of this exercise decide on one positive thing to do for the growth of your church—and do it!



While in Washington, D.C., this year,  
visit

**WASHINGTON BRETHREN CHURCH**  
Corner of Branch & Q Street, S.E.

Sunday services:  
10, 11, and 7:15

Wednesday evening:  
7:30

For further information or assistance, write:  
Pastor Bob Keplinger  
Washington Brethren Church  
3140 Q Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20020



# REAL POSSIBILITIES

From frustration and discouragement to realization of a bright outlook for the future—this dramatic reversal has taken place in the Brethren Publishing Company in just one short year.

Prior to August 1, 1975, the company's affairs had been managed by its board of trustees. These devoted men and women invested as much of their personal time as possible to the business matters of the company. But each was hampered by full-time employment for his own livelihood or by distance from 524 College Avenue.

Then in the spring of 1975, the board made a momentous decision—they hired a full-time executive director to manage the daily affairs of the company and begin long-range planning for future growth and development. John Rowsey, former associate secretary of the Missionary Board, was asked to assume that responsibility.

With Mr. Rowsey's employment came a change of attitudes. The board of trustees, company employees, and denominational

leaders began to believe there was a brighter future for the Brethren Publishing Company—and through careful attention to financial management and staffing, the desired results could be achieved.

And what were those desired results? One was to place the company on a firm financial footing. Indebtedness was high, and there were no specific plans for reducing it.

Another was to expand the sales of the Brethren Bookstore. Lack of space restricted the sales growth potential of the store; expansion was essential.

Also, there was a desire to diversify the efforts of the company. A growing church requires new means of communication. And the centralization of certain services would free other denominational ministries to devote more time to their primary tasks.

It's beginning to happen—and the management and staff of the Brethren Publishing Company thank you for your prayerful support and encouragement during this year of transition.

## The Original Possibility Thinker?

If Robert Schuller did not formulate the idea of possibility thinking, he at least gelled its principles into transferable concepts.

"Possibility thinking," he says, "is the maximum utilization of the God-given powers of imagination exercised in dreaming up possible ways by which a desired objective can be attained."

Put another way, he says it is the kind of faith Jesus had in mind when he said, "For if you had faith even as small as a tiny mustard seed you could say to this mountain, 'Move!' and it would go far away. Nothing would be impossible" (Matthew 17:20, TLB).

Schuller sees "a fantastic future" for the church of Jesus Christ today, just as we envision unlimited possibilities for the Brethren Church.

Want to find out how your church can realize its full potential? Read **Your Church Has Real Possibilities!** by Robert Schuller (Regal Books, \$2.95, 180 pp.).

## Our Reason for Being

The Brethren Publishing Company approaches its task of communication in many ways.

Our statement of purpose says that we exist:

... to provide the means and expertise for communicating the faith, equipping the believer for service, and promoting the work of the Brethren Church. We attempt to accomplish this purpose through the sale of Christian books and Sunday school literature; job printing; Brethren publications, especially the Brethren Evangelist; and consultation on the use of the mass media.

The following reports on our major departments describe more fully the work that we do.

If in reading you see possibilities where we might assist you and your church, call or write Mr. John Rowsey, our executive director. Our address and phone number are on page 3.

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*Commit your work to the Lord, then it will succeed.  
Proverbs 16:3 (TLB)*



## Creative Arts:

### developing new approaches for creative communication

The Creative Arts Department is the newest area of the company.

In essence, its purpose is to refine present approaches to communication and devise new methods for the Brethren Publishing Company, Brethren ministries, and local churches. It is also to develop skill in implementing these strategies for effectiveness.

Refinement has already begun in the Brethren Evangelist. A statement of purpose has been drafted, that is, "to help our readers become effective disciples of Jesus Christ and responsible, active participants in the life, thought, and ministry of the Brethren Church." Content decisions are based on this statement.

Creative Arts also produces the Brethren Quarterly and is developing a resource periodical for pastors and church leaders. Subjects meriting book-length consideration are being discussed as well.

(Former editor George Schuster was honored by the Evangelical Press Association with a life membership for "meritorious service" to the Christian publishing field. We are proud of this distinguished honor for George and continue in this same dedicated tradition.)

Creative design is another aspect of the department. Presently we design the layout for "Insight into Brethren Missions" and some promotional pieces for the church. We are also interested in designing personalized worship folders, stationery, and other printed pieces for local churches.

Groundwork has been laid for providing a growth/communications consultation service for local churches. Services include indepth study of the church itself, community assessment, guidance in developing a strategy for growth and a complete promotional/outreach campaign, and production of tools for implementation of these plans (including radio spots, newspaper ads, and so forth).

The Creative Arts Department is searching for innovative ways to present the most important message in the world. We are ready to serve your church.

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*The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them. Proverbs 18:15 (TLB)*

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Bible verses marked TLB are taken from *The Living Bible* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 1971) and are used by permission.



Photo by Bruce Ronk

Ron Waters (right) presented the Evangelical Press Association award to George Schuster, former editor of publications.

### The Brethren Evangelist: a ministry for you

This magazine is not the sole reason for the existence of the Brethren Publishing Company, though it is a very important part of our work.

Our company has many facets. As a business, each of these facets must be profitable financially as well as spiritually.

But the Brethren Evangelist is a ministry assigned to the company by the General Conference. Today it is funded by: 1) subscriptions, 2) subsidies from denominational ministries, and 3) offerings for Brethren publications.

As is often true of ministries, however, the magazine is not self-supporting. Budget deficits must be absorbed from the profits of the company as a whole. As a result, necessary improvements and new possibilities for Christian communication must be delayed.

You can help in two ways. First, enlist more subscribers for the Brethren Evangelist—after all, no Brethren home should be without the official publication of its church.

Second, give generously to the offering for Brethren publications during the month of September.

Your contributions have made this instrument of communication possible. Issue by issue it records the history and thought of the Brethren Church.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.





Staff Photo

*Dick DeVeney, print shop superintendent, locks up the forms on part of the General Conference program booklet.*

## Growth by faith and perseverance

In 1954 Mrs. Ellen Baer (photo on the cover of this issue) came to the Brethren Publishing Company.

For several years prior to her coming, the company had sold Bibles, Sunday school teacher's annuals, and a few selected books.

But it was left to Mrs. Baer to actually organize the Brethren Bookstore.

She was hampered by a facility that was not designed for a bookstore and by the fear of some to invest more than a few hundred dollars in stock.

But she persevered. It is largely due to her commitment to getting Christian literature into people's hands that the Brethren Publishing Company has a retail outlet today.

She visited the Carpenter's Shop shortly after it opened in June and expressed her amazement at the fine facility.

Certainly the Carpenter's Shop is far more than Mrs. Baer could foresee in the 1950's. How great are the possibilities for 20 years from now!

## The Print Shop: working miracles

The print shop has always been an integral part of the Brethren Publishing Company.

Originally established for printing the Brethren Evangelist, it was expanded in 1894 when the company moved from Waterloo, Iowa, to Ashland. Before that time a committee of the church had been printing Sunday school literature in Meyersdale, Pa. That year the editor and the printing equipment were added to the company.

We have been printing the magazine, Sunday school literature, and other materials in Ashland continuously for 82 years.

Over the years several modernization programs have been carried forward and responsibilities have increased. Today the shop not only continues the traditional printing but has added that of most office supplies and promotional materials for denominational boards, job work for the college and community, and even an occasional book.

Today we call our printers "miracle workers" because of the fine work they continue to do on antiquated equipment. However, as

funds are available the equipment will be updated to allow greater efficiency and increased possibilities for additional printing.

When most people think of the print shop, they think of the type of work outlined above. Many are amazed, however to find that much of the church printing used outside Ashland is also produced by our print shop. District Conference programs, church bulletins, local church stationery, goal sheets, offering boxes, special anniversary booklets, and even memo pads are all a part of a day's work.

Today churches and businesses alike rely on printed brochures and forms. The print shop of the Brethren Publishing Company is happy to be a part of the daily life of so many organizations.

But even more important is the fact that every great movement to sweep through the human race has been brought about and cultivated through the printed page.

Our responsibility for the printed word in magazines (such as the Brethren Evangelist and the Woman's Outlook), in Sunday school literature (like the Brethren Quarterly), and in Brethren books and tracts is a task we take seriously for the future of the Brethren Church and the spread of His Word around the world.



# The Carpenter's Shop:

## get to know the Carpenter

A bookstore is much more than a business —books present ideas, and ideas can change the world. A Christian bookstore is even more important, for the ideas in the books it sells can influence lives for eternity.

The Brethren Bookstore in Ashland ministered to a wide market area from its location across from the college campus. However, many residents of the area believed the purpose of the store was to service only the college campus or Brethren churches.

In 1975 the decision was made to expand the facilities of the Brethren Bookstore and to move it to a more visible location on Claremont Avenue, recently expanded to a four-lane, primary access to downtown Ashland.

At that time it was decided to change the name to indicate our desire to minister to the entire community. What more appropriate name could we pick for a store carrying books about Jesus of Nazareth than to name it after Him. So we named it the Carpenter's Shop.

As the new building was designed, the thought of a carpenter's shop was always present. A rustic theme is prevalent but always in such a way as to honor the Carpenter.

We are thankful for your words of appreciation and encouragement at General Conference. We are also thankful for the financial support of the project by the Women's Missionary Society of the Brethren Church. Above all, we are thankful to the Carpenter himself who has blessed the ministry of His store.

Now we ask to always be found faithful in the administration of what has been entrusted to us. That the Carpenter's Shop may be a place where many will find Him and find among our books, the life-changing ideas that lead to eternal peace with God, is our goal.

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*In everything you do, put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success.*  
Proverbs 3:6 (TLB)



Staff Photo

*The Carpenter's Shop offers a spacious display area for the convenience of shoppers.*



# Seeing the Possibilities

Thoughts shared with the 1976 General Conference by Executive Director John Rowsey.



"I have a vision for the future. . . ."

## The Carpenter's Shop

"I see a vision for the Carpenter's Shop, the community of Ashland, and Ashland College as we participate with the young people at the college, presenting to them the possibilities for Christian living for their own lives . . . and for sharing their faith with other students."

"I see the store as a center for communication of Christian activities in this area."

"I see a chain of Carpenter's Shops."

## The Print Shop

"We still have the same antiquated equipment, but we have skilled craftsmen who can work with that equipment and produce the printing that we need. . . . I see the gradual updating and modernizing of our equipment as funds are available."

"Presently the shop is working to capacity. . . . Dick (DeVeney, shop superintendent) has a dream of the print shop producing almost exclusively Christian printing."

"We hope to provide more efficient communications to you with the (new) addressing system."

## Creative Arts

"Editorial is only a part of the department that we've asked Ron (Waters, managing editor) to work with."

"One of the areas is the production of new publications. . . . We've already begun some preliminary talks on things that need to be published."

"In the area of audio visuals and broadcast productions, I can see us preparing some things that you can use in your own localities—maybe some radio spots, maybe some programs for cable television. . . ."



"We'd like to work with you—with the local churches—in how best to reach out in your community with the media that you have."

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*A 90-minute cassette of the possibility thinking presented at General Conference by five denominational ministries is available for \$3.00. Send your name, address, and check or money order to the Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805, and ask for "Possibilities for the Brethren Church."*



## AC President Clayton Retires in 1977

**Ashland, Ohio**—Dr. Glenn L. Clayton, 65, president of Ashland College since 1948, has announced his retirement as president effective June 30, 1977.

The board of trustees, meeting August 12, accepted the request and passed a resolution bestowing on Dr. Clayton the status of president emeritus upon his retirement.

Dr. Clayton is the "dean" of Ohio college and university presidents as he begins his 29th year at Ashland. The college's 23rd president started with a student body of fewer than 300 students and it grew to more than 2,500 students in 1971. The physical plant during that time has expanded from four buildings to 36.

Dr. Clayton has been active in many state and national organizations in education. He was one of the founders of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges, which solicits funds for the operating budgets of private colleges in Ohio.

Dr. Clayton said, "I feel that the time has come when the college needs new leadership to face problems of the future, possibly 5 to 10 years from now. At most I would remain here only a few years. The problems of the 1980's must be faced now and in the future by a person who will give continuity of leadership."

In these days when the average tenure of a college president is from four to six years, Clayton has spent 29 years in his post. "I do not agree with those who feel that it is a hazardous and horrendous position. I would do it over again. You must roll with the punches," he said.

Last November President Clayton launched Ashland on a \$5.1 million capital campaign which concludes in 1978 when the college celebrates its 100th birthday. More than \$1.5 million has been raised to date.

Dr. Clayton received the doctor of philosophy degree in 1948 and master of arts degree in 1937 from The Ohio State University, where he later was a member of the history faculty. He earned



*AC President Glenn Clayton will have completed 29 years in that post when he retires in June 1977.*

his bachelor of science in education degree from Miami University.

He and his wife, Janet, have two sons, John M. and Glenn L. II.

## Former publishing company head celebrates 90th birthday

**Fort Pierce, Fla.**—Joseph Stookey, former president of the Brethren Publishing Company, celebrated his 90th birthday on June 2 in his home here.

He served as president of the Publishing Board from 1941 to 1955.

He is spending his retirement years with his wife Hazel at 1014 Colonial Rd., Fort Pierce, Fla. 33450.

## Gratis gives pastor love gift for purchase of new car

**Gratis, Ohio**—The Brethren Church here presented a love offering to their pastor on May 9 for the purchase of a new car.

Gene Hollinger, pastor of the church since 1974, was "pleasantly surprised," according to Phyllis Wikle, church clerk.

There is no hospital in Preble County, where the church is located. Most members have to go 25 miles or more away for medical care. This adds extra wear and tear to the pastor's car.

The love offering was nearly large enough to cover the cost of a new Ford Pinto, a more economical car than Pastor Hollinger previously owned.



## Fall business meeting planned by Ohio Conference

**Ashland, Ohio**—The Ohio Conference of Brethren Churches will hold a fall business meeting on October 16 at Delaware, Ohio.

Purpose of the meeting will be to discuss further the "Self-Study Report" presented at the spring meeting, to set goals, and to plan for the future.

Business will be conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Auxiliaries will meet from 3:00 to 3:45 p.m.

Delegates and church leaders should reserve this date.

More information will be released as available.

## S. Bend evangelism team assists men of the Dutchtown church

**South Bend, Ind.**—An evangelism team from the First Brethren Church here demonstrated evangelistic visitation to men of the Dutchtown church on Aug. 4.

John Bush, Ray Smith, Dan Cavinder, and Dave Stickler, Jr., demonstrated the Kennedy method of evangelistic visitation. Each took one or two men from the Dutchtown church with him. As a result of the evening of training, one person accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.

After the visitation period, all shared in an evaluation of the evening.

According to Keith Bennett, pastor of the South Bend church, the evangelism team was "grateful for the experience of sharing with the men of Dutchtown, who are interested in using this method."

The Dutchtown Brethren Church is located near Warsaw, Ind.

## In Memory

**Alta Kirklen Davis**, 91, Aug. 5. Member at Oakville, Ind., church since 1897. Services by Wes Ellis, pastor.

**Robert Byers**, 18, Aug. 3. Member at Pleasant View Brethren Church. Services by William D. Walk, pastor.

**Mrs. Carrie Sayler**, 74, July 31. Member at Linwood Brethren Church. Services by Robert Young, pastor, and Rev. E. W. Culp.

**Mrs. Esther Waldron**, 77, July 27. Member at Bryan, Ohio, church since 1911. Services by Marlin McCann, pastor.

**Lewis G. Benshoff**, 52, July 23. Member of Sarasota, Fla., First church, former member at Johnstown, Pa., Third church. Services by J. D. Hamel, pastor.

**Catherine A. Benshoff**, 70, July 17. Active member of the Johnstown, Pa., Third church. Services by Harold Loveless, interim pastor.

**Lura Graham**, June 28. Member at Gratis, Ohio, Brethren Church. Services by Gene Hollinger, pastor.

**Zella M. Focht**, May 25. Member at Gratis church. Services by Gene Hollinger, pastor.

**Eli Franklin Plaugher, Sr.**, 82, May 24. Faithful member of the Sarasota, Fla., First church. Services by J. D. Hamel, pastor.

**Mrs. Clarence Rohrer**, 81, May 7. Member at Hagerstown, Md., Brethren Church. Services by John Mills, pastor.

**Karen Hepler**, 29, May 4. Member at Pleasant View church. Services by William D. Walk, pastor.

**Ronald Mark Carney**, 19, April 3. Attended Pleasant View church. Services by William D. Walk, pastor.

**Louise Turpin**, Mar. 28. Member at Gratis church. Services by Gene Hollinger, pastor.

## 1976 General Conference Annual

Conference annuals are being prepared and distributed by the Central Council office and will be shipped in bulk to local congregations.

Isolated members of the Brethren Church may also receive a copy of the upcoming annual by completing and returning this form (or a facsimile) to the Central Council office, along with 50¢ for postage and handling. Please write clearly as this form becomes our mailing label.

From: The Central Council  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

To: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
Route \_\_\_\_\_ Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## Weddings

**Lu Ann Summy** to **John Ginty**, Aug. 21, at Ronk Memorial Chapel, Ashland. Eugene Beekley, pastor, officiating.

**JoAnne Hamel** to **Daniel Brenner**, Aug. 15, at Ronk Memorial Chapel, Ashland.

**Deborah Teis** to **Daniel Blumer**, Aug. 14, at Canton, Ohio, Trinity church. John Byler, pastor, officiating.

**Darlene Leckey** to **Bradley Schmid**, June 25, at Vinco, Pa., Brethren Church. Carl Phillips, pastor, and David Karlberg, officiating.

**Kathleen Mackovyak** to **Robert Walls**, June 19, at Vinco church, C. William Cole, officiating.

**Lugene Glavach** to **Robert Elliott**, June 19, at Vinco church, C. William Cole officiating.

**Denise Hofecker** to **Robert Dysert**, June 12, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Brethren Church membership at Vinco.

**Holly Armstrong** to **Terry Gossard**, June 12, at Vinco church. Richard Gillin, officiating.

**Joyce Cole** to **Robert Gould**, Mar. 13, at Vinco church. E. J. Black, C. William Cole, and Stephen Cole, officiating.

**Patty Hileman** to **Jim Colvin**, Mar. 12, at the Gratis, Ohio, church. Gene Hollinger, pastor, officiating.

**Martha Pheanis** to **Jim Davis**, Feb. 7, at the Gratis church. Gene Hollinger, pastor, officiating.

## Pastoral News

**Carl Barber**, resigned as pastor of the Chandon (Herndon, Va.) church, effective in fall.

**Gerald Barr**, resigned as pastor of the Mexico, Ind., church, effective Nov. 6.

**Duane Dickson**, from College Corner (Wabash, Ind.) to Walcrest (Mansfield, Ohio), early Nov.

**Clarence Kindley**, from Corinth (Twelve Mile, Ind.) to Johnstown, Pa., Third, early October.

**Wilbur Thomas**, retired as pastor of the County Line (Lakeville, Ind.) church, Aug. 29.

## Calendar of Events

**September 7-23**—Regional Pastors' Consultations.

**September 12-14**—Church Growth Seminar One, Oakville, Ind., cluster.

**September 17-18**—Church Growth Seminar One, Smithville, Ohio, cluster.

**September 19-24**—Special services, Gretna church, Bellefontaine, Ohio. Don Rowser, speaker.

**September 20-26**—Revival services, Burlington, Ind., church. Alvin Shifflett, speaker.

**September 23-25**—Southeast Conference, Massanetta Springs.

**October 7-9**—Midwest Conference, Ft. Scott, Kans.

**October 16**—Ohio Conference business meeting, Delaware, Ohio.

**November 5-6**—Church Growth Seminar One, North Liberty, Ind., cluster.

**November 8-9**—Central Council, Ashland, Ohio.

## Goldenaires

**Mr. & Mrs. Burley Bracken**, 66th, May 2. Members of the Vinco, Pa., Brethren Church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Carleton Cory**, 52nd, Aug. 26. Members of the Flora, Ind., First church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Ford**, 52nd, June 6. Members of the Vinco church.

**Mr. & Mrs. George A. Leidy**, 52nd, June 12. Members of the Vinco church.

## Membership Growth

Burlington: 10 by baptism

Lanark: 12 by baptism, 5 by letter

North Manchester: 4 by baptism, 8 by letter

Wabash: 5 by letter

## BEFORE YOU MOVE

... please let us know.

**Now, more than ever before, we need to receive your new address before you move.**

As of mid-July, it costs the Brethren Evangelist 25¢ for every copy returned because of a wrong address.

So if you move, please notify us in advance. The Post Office will only inform us through a returned copy of the magazine. You will miss an issue and we will miss the quarter.

Thanks! Your help will keep costs down. (NOTE: Use the form below. By returning it we will correct your address for all mailings from denominational offices.)

### 1. Give old address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Fill in new address below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date new address in effect \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Mail this form to:

Address Correction  
Brethren Publishing Company  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, OH 44805



## "We Can"

by Ronald W. Waters

The challenge before the Executive Committee of General Conference was great. Their task: to plan a program for 1976 that would be unparalleled by previous Conferences and that would combine a celebration of our heritage and a look toward a prosperous future.

The challenge was accepted in August 1975 and accomplished during the week of August 9 to 13, 1976, in Ashland, Ohio. One observer said the 88th General Conference of the Brethren Church was marked by the most positive spirit he had seen in years.

Over 1,000 delegates, visitors, and youth participated in a celebration of our "Heritage of Hope." Festive banners, a balloon release, musical and dramatic presentations, and a three-fold communion, along with numerous other activities, combined to create the spirit of love and unity that prevailed throughout the week.

The Brethren celebrated their heritage through historical dramas and vignettes that highlighted significant moments from the past. Sermons about the early days of the Brethren and their leaders exemplified the fact that the church has distinctives that provide a platform for addressing today's culture.

But the look at the past was only a foretaste of the future. Few faces failed to show excitement as they were greeted Friday morning by countless signs reading "We Can." The closing day's program focused on possibility thinking sessions, presented by denominational ministries and Ashland College and Seminary, that pointed to growth and further outreach in coming years.

The most significant achievement of this Conference was probably the fact that Brethren began to look beyond their trifling differences and to see each other as brothers and sisters in the faith. Jerry Flora said it best when he described the Brethren Church as a "family" and the annual General Conference as a "family reunion."

Following the closing business session, Dr. Charles Munson encouraged delegates to continue in the heritage of the Progressive Brethren of the late 19th century. He said, "The future is as bright as the promise of God. . . . 'Seek to know the Lord, and practice what you know.'"



*The opening evening of the 1976 General Conference was a festive occasion. A parade of banners (center left) crossed the Claremont Avenue footbridge and formed outside the Convocation Center (lower right). Peggy Beekley (lower left), chairman of the publicity committee, organized the banner bearers in preparation for the invocation and balloon release (center). Mr. and Mrs. Devon "Hap" Hossler (upper left) displayed the Nappanee banner for our photographer.*

*Once inside, the Conference Band (upper right), under the direction of James Lentz, presented an instrumental concert. After many had shared personal testimonies of the Lord's work in their lives, 89-year-old Bessie Grove of the Brighton, Ind., church capped the evening by singing "The Longer I Serve Him."*

*Conference photographs by Bruce Ronk.*







## New church guidelines set by Mission Bd.

The Missionary Board adopted "in principle" guidelines for planting new Brethren churches at its August meeting.

The action followed review of a yearlong research project conducted for the board by Dr. Fred Burkey.

A plan for implementation of the proposal will be presented to the board at its fall meeting by Arden Gilmer and the church growth committee of the board.

This strategy would then be used to achieve the board's 5 year goal of establishing 10 new Brethren churches.

Further details of the proposal will be released at a later date by the Missionary Board office.

### Northwest Chapel gets call

Northwest Brethren Chapel of Tucson, Arizona, has been selected for the current Growth Partners Club Call.

The church held its first worship service on January 18, 1976, in Thornydale School. William Curtis is serving as pastor of the church, which was begun with "seed families" from First Church in Tucson.

The church has set as its goal to be self-supporting in two years.

Monies received from the call will be used buying land when the congregation is ready to build its first facilities.

### Offering for Logans

An offering was received at General Conference to cover outfitting and travel costs for the Mark Logan family. The Logans departed for Colombia in July.

The total received toward the offering during Conference week was \$1,910.00.

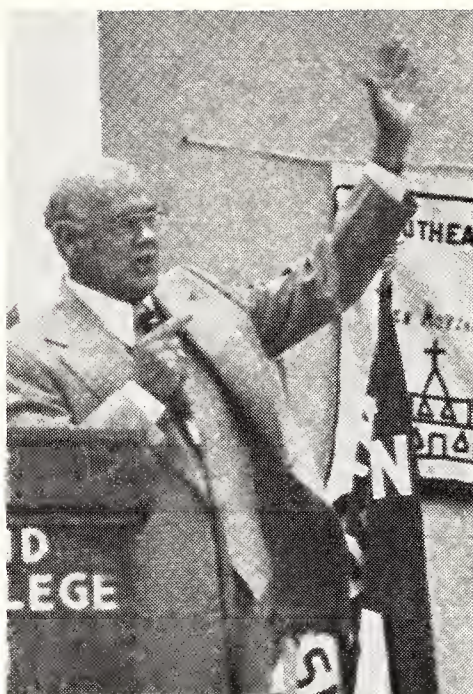
### Furnace funds begun for Riverside

The furnace in the main building at the Riverside school in Lost Creek has been condemned and must be replaced before winter.

Cost is expected to run in excess of \$10,000 and funds for this emergency have not been budgeted this year.

The Missionary Board is searching for sources of financial assistance to undertake the project.





*Bud Hamel*

## **Hamel, Shifflett speak in evenings**

Rev. J. D. "Bud" Hamel was the featured speaker at the Old-Fashioned Revival Meeting on Wednesday evening. Attendance was estimated at over 1,100.

Rev. Alvin Shifflett spoke Thursday evening at the All-Conference Worship, using as his theme the Sermon on the Mount.

## **Stats show '75 growth**

The 1975 statistician's report indicated growth in the Brethren Church during the past year.

Attendance at major worship services increased by 10 percent, while Sunday school averages shot up 8 percent.

Church membership, however, decreased one percent.

The number of family units related to the church was up four percent over 1974.

National Statistician Dale RuLon said, "As I looked over the statistical reports . . . , it appears that we have lost our purpose of 'Go ye.'" He did note that many churches are not satisfied with "status quo, no growth" and are returning "to our first love—to do God's will."

"Major worship" was used rather than Sunday morning worship because some churches do not meet on Sunday mornings.

## **Business highlights**

# **Polity Committee to study denominational restructure**

The General Conference directed its polity committee to "conduct an indepth study and research concerning a reorganization of the activities at the denominational level . . . (and) that a report be given at the 1977 General Conference." The action came as a result of an extensive study by Board Group presented by Dr. Fred Burkey.

Funds were allocated for the study, and the committee was instructed to "seek and receive input from board executives and presidents, other denominational committees and officers, and pastors and congregations." They were also authorized to seek legal advice, if necessary.

## **Ministerial Student Aid change**

The Conference authorized the Ministerial Student Aid Committee "to accept applications from district ministerial examining boards or a comparable board for assistance for Brethren pre-seminary students attending colleges other than Ashland College."

## **Travel subsidy approved**

Delegate fee was raised from \$1.00 to \$6.00, with the \$5.00 increase to be used "by the Conference Membership Committee to provide for a graduated travel subsidy" to encourage representation of churches distant from the General Conference location.

## **Abortion opposed**

Upon the recommendation of the Central District Laymen and the Central District Conference, the General Conference adopted the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the Brethren Church go on public record as opposing the taking of the life of one of God's children by indiscriminate abortion."

## **Committees dissolved**

The Fraternal Relations Committee was abolished; future fraternal relations activity will be conducted by the Central Council office.

The Book and Pamphlet Commission was also dissolved, with its funds, inventory, and responsibility for publishing delegated to the Brethren Publishing Company.

## **Conference year reinstituted**

Beginning immediately, the Conference theme will be in effect from one Conference to the following Conference; personnel will serve from one Conference through the next. Financial and statistical matters will continue to be kept and reported on a calendar year basis.

## **Boards expanded**

The Benevolent Board, from 12 to 13, and the World Relief Board, from 5 to 10; both cases to allow for greater representation.

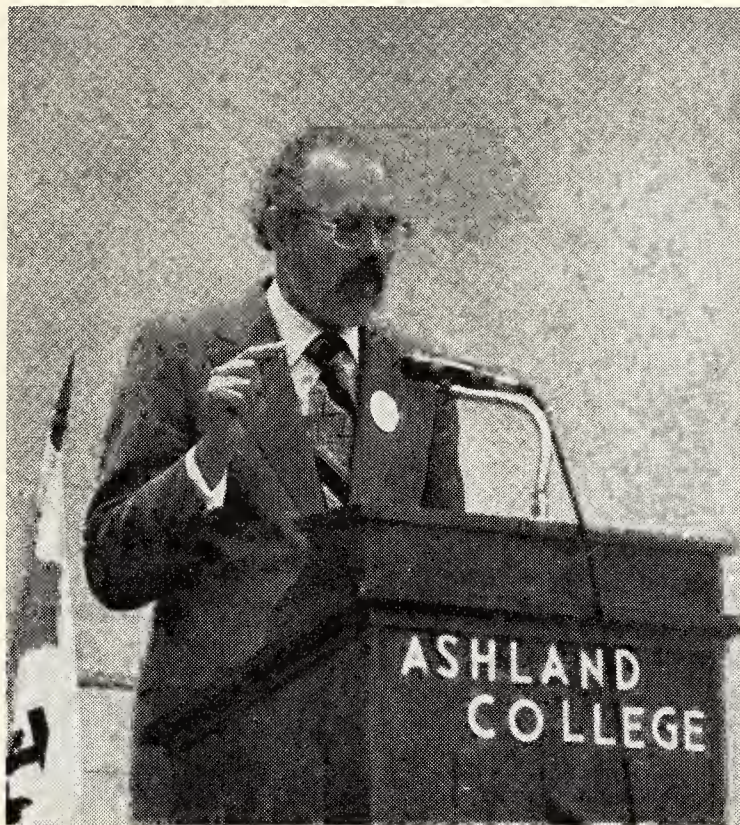


## "I have good news and bad news . . ."

Moderator Spencer Gentle described his assignment as "quite a task."

The Executive Committee of General Conference asked him to present a message on the spiritual state of the churches this year, rather than the traditional thematic address.

Gentle structured his message on "the good news and the bad news."



*Moderator Spencer Gentle presented his address on the spiritual state of the churches during the Tuesday morning business session.*

Four hindrances to spiritual growth that he observed were: 1) lack of dedication, 2) lack of love, 3) the effect of culture on Scriptural interpretation, and 4) lack of purpose.

"Many of us serve only when it does not interfere with our personal lives," he said. He attributed the lack of dedication in the church to the possibility that Brethren "are not really interested in the study of the Word of God" and in real prayer.

He decried the lack of purpose "in the local situation, on the district level, yes, and on the national level." He said that "most of us are existing, but we don't know where we are going."

Gentle warned the delegates about what he called the "questionable matter of speaking in tongues." The danger he saw was that it has often caused "division and trouble" rather than bringing unity.

He classified as "good news": 1) the effect of the church growth program, 2) an increase in Bible study, 3) a growing display of love, 4) a new sense of openness among us, and 5) a renewed hope among the youth of the church.

"I believe numerical growth comes from the spiritual growth of the church," he observed. He said that spiritual growth must be cultivated through the "teaching" and "preaching of the Word."

Concerning the renewed spirit of love he noted, "I'm finding that we are not as critical of each other as we have been in the immediate past, and that there is more trust among us. This is great! Let's see to it that this continues."

He concluded by saying that "the positives are greater than the negatives! We have God on our side; who can be against us? . . . Let's get on with the work of the church, yes, the Brethren Church!"

## Conference officers elected

Moderator-elect—James Black, Sr.; secretary—Fred Horn, Sr.; treasurer—George Snyder; assistant treasurer—Charles Beekley; statistician—Dale RuLon; statutory agent—John Rowsey. (Moderator—Marlin McCann)

## Delegate total

477, as compared with 408 last year.

## 1977 Conference plans

To meet at Ashland College in the John C. Myers Convocation Center, August 15-19; theme: "Equipping for Ministry," based on Ephesians 4:1-16.

## Laymen plan tour

Another "Work and Worship" tour is being planned by the National Laymen this winter. President Jim Payne made the announcement during General Conference week.

The tour will leave for Argentina and Colombia on February 7, 1977.

Also included in this tour will be a visit to Panama.

The first tour was conducted in the winter of 1975.

Requests for information should be addressed to Mr. Payne at Rt. 2, Russiaville, Indiana 46979.



# National BYC: "We Will!"

by Mark Baker

The Bicentennial year held many surprises for the 200 delegates, alternates, and visitors to the 1976 National BYC Convention. The gathering was conducted in the Ashland College Memorial Chapel in conjunction with the General Conference of the Brethren Church.

Theme of the Convention was "Building On Our Heritage of Hope." The young people demonstrated their commitment to that theme during the closing session of the Conference. In addition to chanting "We can" with the adults, the youth added the shout "We will!"

A general feeling of commitment to Christ and the Brethren Church ran high throughout the week. The young people showed their leadership potential by the orderly manner in which they conducted their sessions. They also evidenced a strong feeling of unity and purpose—another key to the success of the week.

In addition to the planned youth activities, they also participated in the grand march, historical vignettes and sermon, small group Bible studies, revival service, and all-conference communion with the adults.



Wayne Grumbling, National BYC moderator, stands under the convention theme sign. Wayne was selected to serve a second term as moderator.

## Youth give lives for service

A "Late Evening Share and Vesper Time" resulted in nearly 40 youth committing their lives to Christian service. Arden Gilmer, director of evangelism/church growth, issued the challenge.

The service followed the Wednesday evening "Old Fashioned Revival and Tentmeeting" where J. D. "Bud" Hamel had presented an inspiring message to the Conference.

Nearly 20 young men responded to the challenge of the call to a pastoral ministry. A similar number of young people responded to a call to mission work in a foreign field.

Rev. Gilmer's challenge followed the dramatic presentation "The Sobbing Stone" by the Summer Crusader Drama Unit. The play focused attention on the need of each Christian to witness for Christ.

The singing of old hymns and choruses was a part of the service, as was a special candle-light reading and song.

The service was undoubtedly the highlight of the week for many, both young and old alike. But the greatest benefits of that night are yet to come as these young people complete their training and join in the ministry for Christ and His church.



Tom Keplinger, Pam North, and Tim Solomon counted BYC officer ballots while Mark Baker (right) tallied the results.



## Youth select officers, reps for new year

The National BYC Convention elected new officers and appointed at-large representatives to their national council for the coming year.

Wayne Grumbling was re-elected for a second term as moderator. He is a senior at Taylor University and is from the Waterloo, Iowa, church.

Donna Shank of Bellefontaine, Ohio (Gretna church), was chosen as vice moderator. She

is a sophomore at Eastern Mennonite College.

A sophomore at Bridgewater College, Elaine Hensley will serve as secretary. She is a member of the Mount Olive church. Deb Michael, senior at Anderson College and a member of the Lanark church, will fulfill the duties of assistant secretary.

Ashland College sophomore Jon Barber of Herndon, Va., will be treasurer. Tim Garner of

North Manchester, Ind., will act as statistician for the organization. He is a sophomore at Manchester College.

At-large members of the National BYC Council are Jeanne Workman, Tim Rowsey, Deanne Lynch, Teresa Shirar, Russell King, and Nancy Dreyer. They will serve with the past and present officers, district presidents, and district representatives in providing leadership for the overall youth program.

### Barber, Lelle honored by BCE

Carl Barber and Jerry Lelle were honored by the Board of Christian Education on Friday of General Conference week.

Rev. Barber was presented a plaque for his 10 years as a member and president of the board. He had served in that capacity since the organization of the board in 1966.

Mr. Lelle was selected as "Christian Educator of the Year." A member of the Nappanee, Ind., church, he teaches an adult Sunday school class and is a BYC sponsor with his wife. He also has been supportive of family life in his church. He is employed as principal of Northwood High School of Nappanee.

Awards were presented on behalf of the board by Dr. Fred Burkey, director.

### Youth Identity Gifts still available

The Board of Christian Education offered Brethren Youth Identity Gifts for purchase during the week of General Conference. Each item featured the new BYC emblem.

Many of the items are still available by mail. Coffee mugs are priced at \$1.50 each or 4 for \$5.50. Key tags are 40¢, plastic bookmarks (in red, yellow, green, and black) are 15¢, and window decals are 50¢.

To order, send your name, address, and quantity of each item desired to: Board of Christian Education, 524 College Ave., Ashland, Ohio 44805. We will bill you for your purchase plus postage.



*Nearly 200 youth delegates, alternates, and visitors attended the BYC sessions in Memorial Chapel during the week.*

## Higher goal set for 1976-77

The delegates to the National BYC Convention voted to raise their total budget goal by 10 percent for the coming year. They also selected as their project the task of outfitting an evangelistic van for Colombia.

The budget was increased to \$11,000 in order to include \$1,000 for producing the Morning Star, national magazine of the organization.

By August 17, a total of \$7,490.77 had been received toward the current budget goal of \$10,000. Additional monies will be accepted through October 31. The major share of the funds raised this year will go to the Summer Crusader Fund and the Bradenton Brethren Church.

Northern Indiana District contributed the most money to the ingathering with \$2,118.64. The top ten contributing groups were:

Sarasota, Fla.—\$1,000.00  
Bryan, Ohio (Sr.)—\$800.00  
Maurertown, Va.—\$520.00  
Washington, D.C.—\$400.00  
Bryan, Ohio (Jr.)—\$400.00  
Nappanee, Ind.—\$279.64  
Smithville, Ohio—\$250.00  
Lanark, Ill.—\$250.00  
Johnstown, Pa., Second—\$230.00  
Waterloo, Iowa—\$225.00

The evangelistic van will be equipped by new Colombian missionary Mark Logan for street campaigns.



## Mrs. Flora, Ingraham address SMM

Mrs. Delbert Flora and Rev. M. Virgil Ingraham challenged the Sisterhood delegates to find ways of service through their organization. The girls responded by rolling bandages and conducting their annual project ingathering.

Mrs. Flora described the early days of Sisterhood at the Tuesday meeting. She explained that the organization was formed around a missions orientation.

Rev. Ingraham described the role of the girls in missions now and in the future during the Friday gathering.

The project ingathering netted \$445 for Kilba language translation in Nigeria. The new project is to establish a \$1,000 car rental fund for missionaries on furlough.

During the week the girls rolled 311 bandages for relief work in India.

Tuesday's special music was provided by Donna Shank, Becky Hamilton, Deanne Lynch, and Betsy Saylor of the Summer Crusader Education Unit I. Burlington SMM members Teresa Jenkins, Suzan Rinehart, and Teresa Shirar sang on Friday.



Mrs. Delbert Flora

### SMM

## Brainstorming produces ideas

Initiation of a pen-pal program and "adoption" of a missionary family were just two ideas raised by SMM delegates during a brainstorming session.

## Officers, patronesses chosen by girls

New officers were selected and retiring leaders were honored during the Sisterhood meetings at General Conference. The annual SMM scholarship was also awarded.

Officers for 1976-77 are: Linda Zerbe, president; Becky Scott, vice president; Nancy Ronk, general secretary; Debbie Munson, financial secretary; Linda Waters, treasurer; Becky Grumbling, literature secretary; and Sue Ellen Barnes, assistant literature secretary.

Roberta Gilmer was selected as the new patroness, and Caryol Bridenstine will serve as her assistant.

Retiring officers and patronesses honored with a gift of appreciation were: Cathy Harding Spreng, Joan Holsinger, Joan McKinney, Judy Tinkel, and Lois Scott.

Becky Hamilton of West Alexandria, Ohio, was chosen to receive the annual SMM scholarship award. She will attend Wright State University in the fall as a freshman.

Purpose of the pen-pal program would be to pair local SMM groups for one year. They would share their problems and successes through correspondence. The program would encourage stronger relationships between Sisterhood girls across the denomination.

By adopting a missionary family, a group would attempt to learn more about one mission field by exchanging letters with the family. It would also provide the girls opportunity to show their love and concern for the missionaries.

Reading was felt to be an important part of the life of SMM girls. Suggested Bible books for the year are Esther and Acts.

SMM General Secretary Nancy Ronk was pleased with the ideas discussed. She said, "The Sisterhood of Mary and Martha is beginning to move forward again. Praise the Lord!"

## Lit. secretary has SMM materials

Literature secretary Becky Grumbling is now in charge of all SMM materials. She can supply local groups with suggested reading books, program booklets, and guidelines sheets. She also has copies of the newly transposed SMM song, "Spirit of Sisterhood."

### WMS

## Commitment, challenge mark meetings

by Grace Grumbling

The meetings of the Woman's Missionary Society were marked by accomplishment, challenge, and commitment.

The featured speaker at the Thursday afternoon worship program was Maria Schultz of Niles, Michigan. She recounted her experiences as a young girl of trying to keep one step ahead of the Russians during World War II.

Coming to the United States after the war with her husband, she was overwhelmed by the abundance and opportunity America offered. She challenged the audience to always remember what a great country this is and to never take it for granted.

The Thursday meeting also was time for the WMS ingathering. The thank offering totaled \$8,062.00, and the project offering was \$9,125.00.

Mrs. Jessie Solomon of Derby, Kansas, was reelected president, and Helen Dickson was chosen as vice president. All other officers were reelected.

The secretary reported an increase in membership this year, to over 2,000. The ladies have tried many new ideas to create interest in their meetings. They have also used various methods of helping others through benevolent projects.

(continued next page)



# World Relief features Dr. Taylor

## World Relief Fasting Banquet

Five ounces of rice and a paper cup of water were served to the 227 who attended, but they received much more. Dr. Clyde Taylor (representative from the World Relief Commission) spoke about the policies by which WRC operates in handling our gifts, about the integrity with which these gifts are administered, and about the people helped through World Relief giving—with several valid illustrations. We also viewed the new WRC film about Bangladesh, and I played some short tape-recorded sounds from my Asian trip last January.

After all expenses were paid, the profit from the banquet and other donations was over \$500; that's an increase of more than \$200 over last year. We're most appreciative.

## Small group studies part of program

by Larry Bolinger

The bedrock of Brethren heritage is a deep love for God's Word. In keeping with this heritage, the Conference Executive Committee included three small group Bible study sessions in the program.

Sixteen groups were offered each session touching on "Passages Brethren Hold Dear," "Issues Brethren Have Faced," and "Current Social Issues."

Study sessions were led by pastors, seminary students, and laymen and women.

Some of the subjects discussed were lay involvement, divorce, body life, hunger, and the simple life. Issues from the past included discipline, non-resistance, worldliness, and the ban.

## WMS (cont.)

Commitments for the coming year were adopted. The Carpenter's Shop will again be the project. A budget for over \$24,000 was accepted with commitments similar to previous years.

In all, 182 delegates were registered, with many visitors present also.

## Sewing Display

Several local churches brought samples of what they had worked on during the year, and these were examined and handled by many who came through the display area. But, as has been true in past years, several women spent considerable time during Conference week knotting quilts, running the sewing machines, and cutting out patterns to take home. Thanks to all of you who took advantage of these opportunities to serve.

## World Relief Display

I shared sights and sounds of my trip to India, Bangladesh, and Thailand with tape-recorded comments about some snapshots mounted on three posters. These were set on easels with a listening center beneath each one. Individuals listened by using headsets.

Others viewed colored slides projected by a continuously running carousel. Films were also run periodically and a film-strip about world hunger was provided on a small viewer. Again, our thanks to those who took time to listen and look. And yes, I also had some gifts from the trip displayed for atmosphere.

## Board Size Enlarged

Conference approved increasing our board to 10 members. Our membership now consists of: George Kerlin, Aida May Munson, L. E. Lindower, Joe Hanna, Kent Bennett, Rose Bolinger, Edna Logan, Bob Bischof, Bob Young, and Phil Lersch. Contact these people with your questions or suggestions for this mission of our church.



Announcing the opening of—

## Broadfording Christian College

- \* A four-year, coed, Christian liberal arts and Bible College, offering the A.B. and B.S. degrees with majors in: Bible, Pastoral Studies, Missions, Christian Education, Sacred Music, Christian Nursing, Elementary and Secondary Education for Christian schools. Bible school program with 1, 2, 3 and 4 year diplomas.
- \* Classes begin September 13, 1976, with tuition at \$400.00 and room and board at \$400.00 per semester.
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Pastor Bill Freed  
Founder and President



# DeMain Warner, Jurisa Garwood --

DeMain Warner and Jurisa Garwood were honored as winners of the first "Senior Citizen of the Year" award on Thursday of General Conference week. Three others were given honorable mention.

Mr. Warner was recommended for the honor by the First Brethren Church of Goshen, Ind. Mrs. Garwood was nominated by the First Brethren Church of South Bend, Ind.

Honorable mention was accorded to: Mrs. Mae Wenger of the Bethlehem church in Harrisonburg, Va.; James Norris of St. James, Md.; and Earl Wilkin of Lanark, Ill.

The Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church, sponsors of the program, presented Mr. Warner with an inscribed clock radio. Mrs. Garwood received a plaque and a red, white, and blue afghan. The three given honorable mention received a plaque, and all were presented with flowers.

Certificates and flowers were also presented to all other nominees:

Harry Berkshire—Masontown, Pa.  
Josephine Blosser—New Lebanon, Ohio  
Vallie Bowman—Mt. Olive, Va.  
Lillian Bowers—Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Dorothy Brubaker—Gratis, Ohio  
Mary Denlinger—Dayton, Ohio  
Edward Conaway—Dutchtown, Ind.  
Willa Connin—Bryan, Ohio  
Ruth Finks—Maurertown, Va.  
Maude Fisher—Ardmore, Ind.

(oldest nominee at 101 years)

Frank Wilmer Garber—Cheyenne, Wyo.  
Blanche Geyer—Nappanee, Ind.  
Charles Grinder—Pleasant View, Pa.  
Gladys Hossler—Winding Waters, Ind.  
Peter Housel, Sr.—Meyersdale, Pa.  
Irvin Kizer—Burlington, Ind.

Walter Lichtenberger—Elkhart, Ind.  
Iva Lozier—Warsaw, Ind.  
Escel Mishler—N. Manchester, Ind.  
Mary Neer—Gretna, Ohio  
Audrey Randall—Flora, Ind.  
Ferda Riddle—Tiosa, Ind.  
Galen Sluss—Louisville, Ohio  
Fern Smith—Ashland, Ohio  
Inez Summers—Canton, Ohio  
Orpha Swihart—Roann, Ind.  
Guy Tamkin—Washington, D.C.  
Inez Wray—Peru, Ind.

## DeMain Warner

From the Goshen congregation's recommendation:

### Service to the Church

Member—69 yrs.; church treasurer—5 yrs.; vice moderator—2 yrs.; trustee—6 yrs.; moderator—9 yrs.; deacon 41 yrs.; chairman of deacons—18 yrs.; member of official board—43 yrs.; boy's Sunday school class teacher—7 yrs.; chairman of N. Indiana Brethren S.S. and C.E. Conference—1 yr.; trustee of Brethren Conference of Indiana—15 yrs.; president of district conference board—6 yrs.; subscriber to Brethren Evangelist—61 yrs.; author of local church history. (After nearly 10 years of research and writing, Mr. Warner has given us what is generally regarded as the most accurate and comprehensive history of a local Brethren church organization ever to be put in print.)

### Service to the Community

Active farmer—45 yrs.; semi-retired and fruit grower—20 yrs.; member, Elkhart Township Advisory Board (chairman)—8 yrs.; organized Elkhart Township Volunteer Fire Department—1933; chairman, Elkhart Township AAA Wheat and Corn Committee—2 yrs.; member, Elkhart County AAA Committee—1935; chairman, Goshen Farmers' Institute—2 yrs.; chairman, Elkhart County Extension Advisory Committee—3 yrs.; director, Elkhart County Farm Bureau Cooperative—22 yrs.; president, Elkhart County Farm Bureau Cooperative—18 yrs.; member, Elkhart County Council—1948; vice president, Elkhart County Farmer Mutual Insurance—6 yrs.; president, Elkhart County Farmers Mutual Insurance—1955; secretary-treasurer, Elkhart County Horticultural Society—21 yrs.; director, National Cooperatives—3 yrs.; director, Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association—24 yrs.; president, Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association—6 yrs.

(Note: Directors of the Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association chart the course and direct the activities of an organization which did more than \$600 million worth of business last year. As president of this group Mr. Warner received a letter dated June 1, 1971, attesting to his leadership ability. Dr. Earl L. Butz who, at that time, was vice president of the Purdue Re-



Mr. Warner received an inscribed clock and Mrs. Garwood was given a plaque and a red, white, and blue afghan when they were named "Senior Citizens of the Year."



# Senior Citizens of the Year

search Foundation and is now the Secretary of Agriculture, wrote: "I have just finished reading the annual report of the Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, published in the May issue of Hoosier Farmer. First of all, DeMain, a great big bouquet of roses goes to you for the tremendous job you have done through the years as president of the Board of Directors. During your tenure the Association has grown tremendously in size, in net savings, and most important of all, in service to Indiana agriculture.")

## Service to Individuals

Through the years, the Warners (DeMain and Hazel), were among the church's most prolific visitors. Their broad acquaintanceship, plus a genuine zeal for service to others, led them into homes of the sick, the elderly, the shut-ins, and, in many instances, the indifferent. Often these visits were supplemented with gifts of food—especially apples which were grown on the Warner farm. Assisting the pastor in an anointing service has been a frequent experience for Mr. Warner. Few men have been asked to serve as a pallbearer more often than Mr. Warner by families of the departed—church members, neighbors, and fellow townspeople.

## Accomplishments

It would seem to us that Mr. Warner's greatest asset has been his unusual qualities of leadership. We have never known him to actively seek an office, but when he worked with others in a group that potential for leadership was soon recognized, and he was quickly elevated to the top by his peers.

## Personal Christian Life and Walk

To be regular in attendance at all the services of their church was the policy of the Warner family. Only the midweek meeting was missed upon occasion when an out-of-town meeting on a conflicting time and date could not be avoided. Attendance at General Conference was frequent. District conference attendance was considered an annual "must." It is indeed a heart-warming experience for Christian parents when their children, and even their grandchildren, emulate their elders in also leading a Christian way of life. Such has been the pattern of the Warner family. To carry that cause for thankfulness and rejoicing a step further, one of Mr. Warner's granddaughters and her husband, under the auspices of the Mennonite Board of Missions, have just begun their second term of voluntary service in India.

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## Jurisa Garwood

From the South Bend congregation's recommendation:

### Service to the Church and Individuals

Served on the board of deacons since 1924 (52 yrs.); sang in the choir from 1913 to 1970 (57 yrs.); continues to be active in WMS and has served as president; served a number of years as cradle roll superintendent; served on the home department, calling on shut-ins and teaching them the Sunday school lessons; served on the flower committee, taking altar flowers to shut-ins and hospitalized members; served on the official board; was Sunday school chorister for years and years; worked in vacation Bible school as chorister and teacher; started teaching junior boys in Sunday school and this class won the attendance banner nearly every Sunday in 1913; began teaching a junior girls class when the new church was built in 1923; taught adult Sunday school class (Acme) for over 30 yrs.; sponsor of Christian Endeavor for many years and then for a short time sponsored BYC; home was opened to anyone coming to the church for special services—evangelists, missionaries, guest preachers; even now, at 84, calls regularly on a church member who suffered a stroke several years ago and is in a nursing home, cutting her nails and performing other personal services.

### Service to the Community

Jurisa lives in a predominately black neighborhood not far from the church. She calls on

neighbors and gives help whenever needed. She helps upgrade the area, even cleaning up vacant lots nearby. When her husband was alive they lived a few blocks away from their present home. Though they were attacked in their home, they remained there and demonstrated Christian love. Now making her home with an elderly sister-in-law, she has been attacked there also, but has been able to "turn the other cheek" and live at peace with her neighbors.

### Other information about Jurisa

When her husband Clem was alive, he was always available for men's projects. A retiree from Studebaker, he was an excellent carpenter. Most of the time when he worked on these projects, Jurisa was right at his side hammering nails, painting, and carrying wall board and lumber. They spent several weekends working on the building of the Laymen's Lodge at Shipshewana and on the building of the Girls' Dormitory there. They also worked on the church at Matteson, Michigan, and no doubt on many other projects not known by us.

### Some comments made by the congregation about Jurisa

"She is the best example of a real Christian that I know of. I love her."

"At 84 years of age Jurisa needs no one to minister to her, instead she is still serving the Lord and anyone else that is in need."

"Jurisa is able to make friends easily, also making everyone feel welcome who enters the First Brethren Church."





## REACHING MALASIA

by David Loi

Last year our goal was to spread the gospel to as many places as we could. A few places we had in mind were Telok Bahang, Gertak Sanggul, Rifle Range, Thean Teik Garden, Batu Maung, and Balik Pulau. Praise the Lord, from August 1975 until now we have reached part of our goal by starting meetings at Telok Bahang and Thean Teik Garden.

### Beginnings at Telok Bahang

While we were making home visits at Island Glades, we were praying for the places mentioned above that the Lord might open the path for us to spread the gospel to at least one. We came to know Mr. Goh Ting Hung, a Baptist Seminary student. He took me to see the fishing village of Telok Bahang, a few miles away from the seminary. The seminary students started a children's meeting in 1971, but it was discontinued after two years because nobody could spend full time on the job.

So we decided to start the meeting again. Thank God, we managed to rent a place, and we started the first two meetings by showing films. We were grateful that four Baptist students, Rev. Goh Kim Chuan (pastor of Penang Presbyterian Church), and three of his members went to support us. Rev. Goh also helped us with transportation since we didn't have the automobile until the end of August 1975.

By the end of November the four seminary students graduated and were not able to carry on teaching the Sunday school; also by then only two of the Presbyterian church members could help. It was obvious that I needed a full-time helper. So the mission employed Miss Ngeow Lee Lin to be a coworker in December after her graduation. The Sunday school meeting has since been going on very well. The average attendance now is around 60.

During a meeting we teach them to sing gospel songs and tell them Bible stories. Then the children go to one of five different classes according to their ages. The teachers use the materials which we ordered from Singapore Scripture Union. Once a month, we have a special program, such as a film, filmstrip, singing competition, storytelling competition, and Bible memorization competition.

We are planning and preparing to have a vacation Bible school in the near future. We tried to have a child training program so that the children could be leaders among themselves, but it was discontinued as we felt that it was too soon to attempt this.

### Additional meetings

When the children's meetings had been established, we started the youth/adult meetings. The response from the adults has been poor, but the youth have averaged between 8 and 12. The pro-



*These homes in Telok Bahang are typical of this fisherman's settlement where David, Jenny, and Miss Ngeow hold meetings.*



Penang State includes Penang Island with Georgetown, its capital, white sand beaches, and many cities and villages. The island is 2½ miles off the northwest coast of the Malay Peninsula. It is about 15 miles long and 10½ miles wide at the broadest point, with 113 square miles in all.

The cities have subdivisions and sections as ours do; we expect to share more

information in the future on how Thean Teik Garden and its areas called Jalan Shaik Madar and Jalan Taman Thean Teik Satu fit into this pattern.

Telok Bahang is a fisherman's settlement in a cove on the northwest corner of the island. Batu Maung is on the south-eastern coast near the Bayan Lepas Airport. Island Glades is the development where David and Jenny live.

gram involves gospel singing and Bible studies.

Last January we started a kindergarten once a week for the children in Telok Bahang. There are 32 children in two classes, and Miss Ngeow and I are responsible for a class each. The program includes singing, storytelling, Chinese language, English language, general knowledge, arithmetic, handwork, and games. This provides more opportunities for us to talk to the parents. We also make home visits once a week, giving them tracts and introducing our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## Thean Teik Garden meetings

We thank God that we were able to make a survey of the area of Jalan Shaik Madar, which is three to four miles away from Island Glades. There are more than 100 houses with the majority of the residents Chinese; others are Indians and Malays. The residents here belong to the middle lower class.

Again with the help of Mr. Goh Ting Hung, we rented a house compound. We started the first meeting by showing a film on February 5, and it attracted about 100 people. Recent attendance has been around 55.

The program is similar to that of Telok Bahang except that the children don't go to different classes. Here we cannot depend on volunteers to help teach the classes.

In April we took opportunity of a two-week

school vacation to organize a vacation Bible school. There were 65 to 70 children enrolled.

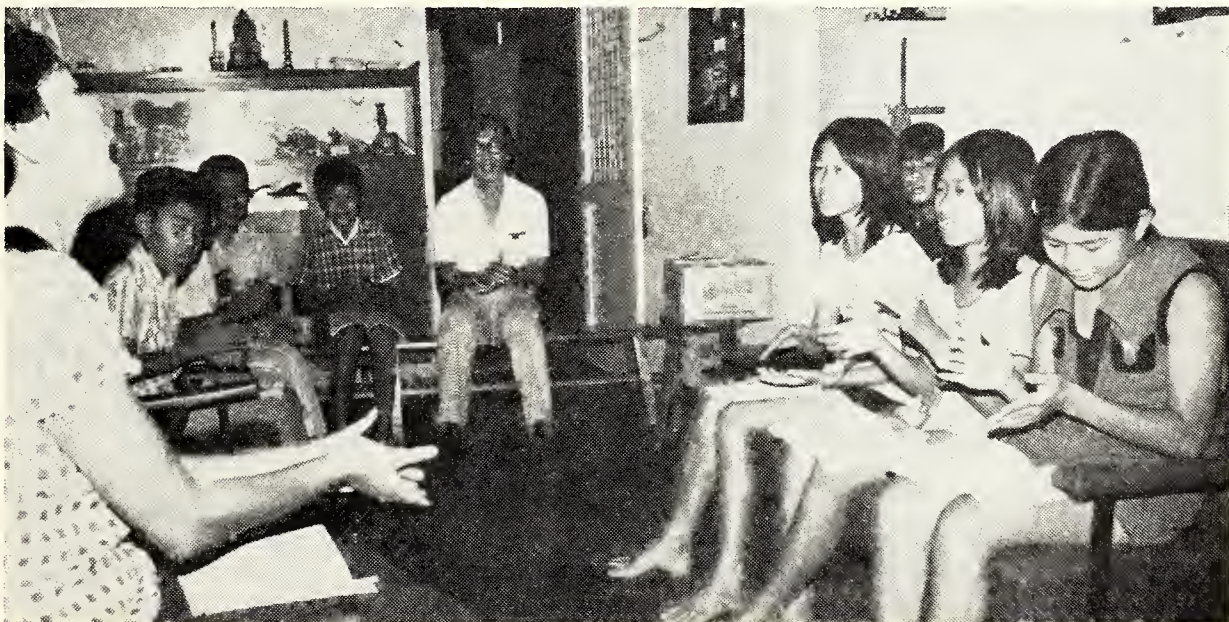
We started the youth/adult meetings in March. The program includes singing, preaching, slides, filmstrips, and recreation. Attendance is about 10.

In April when the drama performers from the Far East Broadcasting Company from Singapore were in Penang, we invited them to perform a "Silent Stage Show" at Thean Teik Garden. It was a good performance indeed, and it attracted over 150 people.

Some of the children from the Jalan Taman Thean Teik Satu area of Thean Teik Garden had been going to the children's meetings at Jalan Shaik Madar. I used to take them back and forth. As a result we went to visit their parents and discussed with them the prospect of starting a children's meeting in this area. They agreed, and on May 2 we started with a film. There were about 70 people present. The regular meeting time is on Sunday afternoon.

## Pray for us

Please pray for the various activities which I have mentioned above, and do not forget to pray for us that we may have strength and wisdom to carry on these ministries. And pray, too, for the Lord's constant leading for opening up other needy areas where the preaching and teaching of the gospel is urgently needed.



*Singing is an important part of the youth/adult meetings. David (center, background) teaches a new song to these youth at Jalan Shaik Madar.*



## *The "Art" of Christian Living*

One of our partners at Brethren House is Art Kretschmer. Even though he is affiliated with another church organization, we claim him as a partner here because of all the help he has given us. As we think about the contributions he has made to our work, we realize the aptness of his name. One edition of the dictionary lists several meanings for the word "art" and all but one of them apply to our Art, our neighbor, our partner.

1. Art is "skill in performance, acquired by experience, study, or observation; knack." Our Art is truly skilled in remodeling. Whenever we've needed the shape and structure of things changed around Brethren House, we've called on Art. When we told him of Bonnie's needs in the house where she would move, he studied the situation and proceeded to skillfully fit her living area to her needs.

2. Art is "human contrivance or ingenuity." If we have an unwanted wall, Art'll knock it down to allow greater flexibility of movement. (This actually happened at Brethren House five years ago, as well as in our new addition recently.)

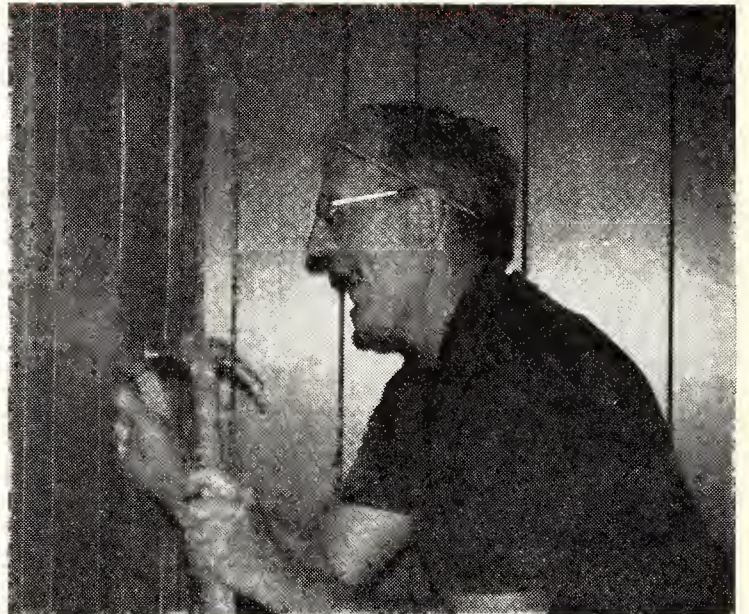
3. Art is a "branch of learning; a science; especially one . . . as logic." Our Art will come take a look at something that needs changing and figure out the best way to get it done. One time when Phil was overseas, water began to cover the living room, hallway, and bathroom floors of the new house. Art took over for Jean and Bonnie, finding the source of the leak, turning off the main water valve, and then helping in mopping up.

4. Art is "the general principle of any branch of learning or of any craft." Art certainly manifests knowledge of the principles of electricity. He has wired and rewired circuits so that Bonnie can have electrical outlets within easy reach at her lowered work counter in her kitchen, an electric pump to water her shrubbery, a combination heater-fan-light in her bathroom, and much more.

5. Art is "systematic application of knowledge or skill in effecting a desired result or a magical skill." This sounds as though Mr. Webster knew our Art personally. Just ask Bonnie about her office complex that allows easy rolling and managing. Ask her about her efficient kitchen and utility room. She'll effervesce like a shaken can of Pepsi Cola.

6. Art is "application of skill and taste to production according to aesthetic principles." Not only did Art knock down walls for us, but he finished the raw edges with wood that he had scrounged somewhere and then stained them to contrast beautifully with the white walls. He also finished the new bathroom and laundry room with dark paneling. He works with skill and taste.

The last meaning in the dictionary—"artificial behavior"—does not at all apply to our Art. He



*From installing paneling to rewiring electrical circuitry, Art Kretschmer lends a helping hand to the ministry of Brethren House.*

is genuine. He sees what needs doing and does it, without fanfare.

After spending the usual workday at his desk at Electronics Communications Incorporated or traveling to various parts of the country troubleshooting for the company, he comes home, dons his work clothes, and pitches in to help us. He has donated countless hours of his own time in carpentry, electrical work, and just plain resourcefulness; yet he refuses remuneration. Knocking down walls, cleaning up plaster, mopping water, crawling under the roof in the Florida heat to connect wires, climbing ladders, hammering, sawing, nailing paneling—he has done all of these tasks and more. This is quite a guy, this neighbor, this Art who manifests Christian living. We are proud to claim him as a "partner in the gospel."



### **MISSIONARY UPDATE**

The **Mark Logans** received final clearance in early July to enter Colombia. They arrived in Medellin on July 31. In mid-August they were negotiating for a home halfway between Solomons and Campo Valdez, site of one of the works.

The **Ken Solomons** were to fly for Medellin from Florida on Aug. 28 after furlough.

The **Jerry Gieves** continue translation of the Kilba language after relocating in the United States. Their new address is 1659 F. South 130th, Tulsa, OK 74108.



# world relief

*Reflections from my recent tour*

## Co-ops Develop Self-Sufficiency

by Phil Lersch

January 24, 1976, was a full day but one of the most unique and rewarding of my three-week World Relief trip. It started with an early morning speedboat ride down the Pusar River from Khulna to Dacope, Bangladesh.

To ascend from the speedboat to the narrow roadway for the walk back to the Dacope Service Center required some balance and courage. The bamboo rungs on the 45-degree ramp were lashed about a foot apart, leaving 11 inches of space between each one. The handrail was welcome security (especially since I was lugging a heavy camera bag, two cameras, and a large tape recorder). A small but very noisy band of drums, cymbals, and a horn greeted and escorted us along the half-mile dirt road from the river to the Center.

The Dacope Service Center is the hub of an impressive, long-term World Relief Commission (WRC) project. Only 9 acres in size, it reaches out to 3,500 families in 59 cooperatives over a 400 square mile area in this underprivileged rural region of Bangladesh.

Here in Dacope is an excellent example of our Brethren World Relief money accomplishing the kinds of things we pray it will. The people of this region were those dispersed to India during the Pakistani/Bengali War. After the end of the conflict, they returned to find their farmland overgrown and ruined. Paul Munshi, the trained Christian Bengali I wrote about last month, looked for a respectable way of helping the people become even more productive and self-supporting than they had been before. It has happened through the establishment of cooperatives.

As a co-op is started, 50 to 60 families are loaned seed and fertilizer and are rented pumps for irrigation and possibly a tractor for plowing, with the understanding that these loans are to be paid back as the farmers get returns from their crops.

The best possible results are taking place! Formerly these farmers were getting only one rice crop per year. Now, with the additional equipment and advice available, they are getting two and sometimes three crops! It is a miracle made possible by the many people like you and I who have been willing to provide funds for this work.

When the co-ops organize, they set their own bylaws and elect their own officers. (Five co-ops are run entirely by women, an unusual occurrence in this culture.) Each co-op manager represents his cooperative in the Central Co-op at the Dacope Center.

At the start, WRC and the Christian Social

Service assumed heavy leadership and responsibility, but now the Central Co-op is being registered with the government and will not need so much aid from the World Relief Commission, releasing funds for a new project at Kotalipara (several miles upriver).

Through WRC we are helping people help themselves. The byproducts are numerous; common people are learning how to work together, develop responsibility, share, organize, and trust each other. And they are learning that Christians honestly care about them—care enough to provide help and guidance when it is needed most.

Rural cooperatives in Bangladesh—an important part of our ministry through World Relief.

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*Phil Lersch is the president of the World Relief Board of the Brethren Church, pastor of the Brethren Church of St. Petersburg, Fla., and director of Brethren House Ministries.*

*In January and February 1976 he had opportunity to tour India, Bangladesh, and Thailand with a group sponsored by the World Relief Commission of NAE. Purpose of the tour was to see firsthand the work that World Relief gifts are supporting.*



Photo by Phil Lersch

*A band and crowd greeted the members of the World Relief tour. Hear those drums?*



# auxiliary programs for october

- 32 Signal Lights Program
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## signal lights

written by  
Alberta Holsinger

**Project: Sunday School in Malaysia**

## A Dream Come True

I'm going somewhere overseas to study more about God," David Loi told his friends.

"Sure," they laughed. "It takes lots of money to do that. You don't have any!"

Each time David saw his friends they teased him about his dream.

"Have you started packing?" they would ask.

"Don't forget to tell me goodbye," another would add.

David lived in Sibul, Malaysia. He had gone to Christian schools and knew Jesus was his Savior.

Most of the people of Malaysia worship false gods—Buddha, Confucius, or their ancestors. David wanted to tell them about the true God. He went to college, but there was more he wanted to learn. He would need to go to a seminary in another country to study all he wanted to know.

Even though his friends laughed, David began writing letters. He wrote to seminaries in Africa, Australia, Canada, England, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, the Philippines, Taiwan, and the United States.

"I want to learn more about Jesus. I want to know how to tell others about Him. I would like to study at your school. Do you have a scholarship for me?" David wrote.

David needed a scholarship so that he would not have to pay the seminary for studying there.

The replies came back. "No more scholarships available," most of them said. A seminary in Australia said they could give him a one year scholarship, but David wanted to stay in school until he completed the course and graduated—not go just one year.

David went to his pastor, Rev. Tiong Hung Ling.

"I know God wants me to go to school overseas," he told him. "There are many seminaries in the United States. Can you give me the names of some I haven't written to yet?"

Rev. Ling found the names and address of eight more seminaries in the United States. Again David began writing letters. "May I come? Do you have a scholarship for me?"

Seven schools wrote back: "No scholarships," or "Only small scholarships."

David needed to know all his fees would be paid before he asked the United States government to let him come into the country. Were his friends right? Was it just a dream? Could a young Malaysian hope to go to the United States to study?

Then one day another letter came. From the return address David knew it was from Dr. Joseph Shultz of Ashland Theological Seminary. As he tore it open he wondered if it would be like all the others—no scholarship.

As he read the letter a smile spread across his face: ". . . you have been accepted . . . awarded you a scholarship . . . includes tuition and housing . . . a meal ticket until you become adjusted."

"I'm going to the United States," David excitedly told his friends. "I'm going to Ashland Theological Seminary. It wasn't just a dream!"

David's friends were happy and excited, too. "Good for you, David! We're glad you can go. We will pray for you."

"I'm going to Ashland, Ohio, in the United States," David told everyone he knew.

"Ashland, Ohio? Where's that?" many asked.

"I'm not exactly sure," David replied, "but that's where God is sending me to school. When I have completed my studies, I will come back. I will come back to Malaysia to share the good news of Jesus our living Savior!"

*Note: See the article on pages 28 and 29 for more information on the work of David and Jenny Loi and save it for future reference.*

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**Memory Time:** And lo a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17



# To the Jordan River

It was in Joseph's carpenter's shop in Nazareth that the boy Jesus had played about in the shavings. He had learned to hammer and saw and to make things. When He grew older, Jesus learned to be a good carpenter, just as Joseph had been. He could build tables and benches. He could build strong wagons and smooth yokes so they wouldn't hurt the neck of an ox.

As He worked with His tools, Jesus was thinking and planning and praying about the things He would do. He was remembering that God had sent Him to be the Savior.

One day Jesus wiped the shining tools. He put them all away and closed the door of the carpenter's shop. He left the little house in Nazareth and walked to the Jordan River to see John the Baptist.

"I have come to be baptized," He told John. John shook his head. "This isn't right. I am the one who needs to be baptized by You."

"Please baptize Me," said Jesus. "I want to do everything that is right."

So John baptized Jesus.

As Jesus came up out of the water, God's voice spoke. "This is my beloved Son," God said. "I am well pleased with Him."

After His baptism Jesus went to a desert place to pray. For 40 days and 40 nights He stayed there

talking to God and planning His work. He was tired and He was hungry.

That's when Satan came to Him. "Change these stones into bread," he said. "If you are really God's Son, you can do that."

Jesus wouldn't do as the Devil suggested. "No," He said. "I will be obedient to God's Word."

Again Satan tried to get Jesus to do wrong. "Jump from the high steeple of the temple," he said. "God will send angels to take care of you. When you're not hurt, people will know you are God's Son."

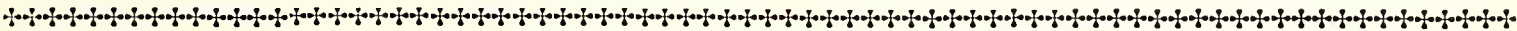
Jesus knew that God wants people to take care of the bodies He has given them. Again Jesus shook His head. "No, God doesn't want people to do foolish things to show off."

The Devil tried once more. From the top of a mountain he showed Jesus all the cities and countries of the world. "They're all mine," he boasted. "I will give them to You if You will kneel down and worship me."

"No," said Jesus. "I will never do that. God's Word says, 'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.'"

When the Devil saw that Jesus would do no wrong, he went away. And Jesus went on to do the work God sent Him to do.

—Based on Matthew 3:13—4:11



laymen

prepared by  
J. Perry Deeter

## ". . . Where Is Thy Sting?"

by Harold J. Sala

When the U.S. stock market crashed in 1929, J. C. Penney had made some unwise personal commitments. He became so worried that he could not sleep. Night after night Penney tossed and turned and became obsessed with a fear of death. Out of this nervous condition, he developed a disease known as shingles. He was hospitalized and given sedation to relieve the intense pain. A combination of circumstances, physical and mental, led him to believe he would not live till morning. He wrote farewell letters to his wife and son. He sincerely believed that the monster of death was lurking for him in the hospital corridors.

Some way Penney lived through the night. The next morning the fear-torn Penney heard a group of people singing in the hospital chapel. The words of the song drifted down the halls: "God Will Take Care of You." He listened to the words intently.

They were followed by the reading of a passage from Scripture and prayer.

Then something happened. In Penney's own words: "I can't explain it. I can only call it a miracle. I felt as if I had been instantly lifted out of the darkness of a dungeon into warm, brilliant sunlight. I felt as if I had been transported from hell to paradise. I felt the power of God as I had never felt it before. . . . From that day to this, my life has been free from worry." Penney's fear of death was suddenly cut down to size. It ceased to haunt him. Why? Penney—nor anyone else—could explain it by reason; yet countless millions have found that when they committed their lives to Christ, they found the reality of a supernatural peace that cuts the fear of death down to its proper size.

Knowing Christ links us to Him who has al-

(continued on next page)



ready fought the battle and won. Remember Christ's words, "Because I live, you shall live also" (John 14:19). This is why the apostle Paul could say, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:55, 57).

Simple faith in God goes beyond reason, yet it gives peace that is most reasonable. What more beautiful expression of peace in the face of death is there than the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. . . . Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me."

John Bunyan expresses the attitude of those who have committed their lives to Christ: "Let dissolution come when it will, it can do the Christian no harm, for it be but a passage out of a prison into a palace; out of a sea of troubles into a haven of rest; out of a crowd of enemies, to an innumerable company of true, loving, and faithful friends; out of shame, reproach, and contempt into exceeding great and eternal glory."

Christian faith is unique in its assertion that the grave is not the end, but merely the beginning of an eternal tomorrow. How beautiful are the words of Christ: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26).

William Cullen Bryant penned these familiar lines:

So live, that when thy summons comes to join  
The innumerable caravan which moves  
To that mysterious realm, where each  
shall take

His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,  
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained  
and soothed

By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,  
Like one that wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

Originally published as "Cutting Man's Greatest Fear Down to Size" in *Guidelines for Successful Living* by Harold J. Sala. Copyright 1976 by Baker Book House Company and used by permission.

## sisterhood

### General Secretary's Notes

Dear Girls,

Well, summer vacation is over and it's time to begin another year of school. Already! You may be sad to give up some freedoms of summer and be dreading the return to school. But as you start, I would like to remind you of a verse I ran across last week, Proverbs 16:16: "To get wisdom is better than gold; to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver." Think of it as a privilege to still be able to learn and gain wisdom. (I know it's hard to convince yourself, but it might help a little!)

Now that some of you have been to General Conference, I want to remind you of why you were here. Whether it was your 1st time or your 10th, you have a responsibility to share what you experienced at Conference with those from your BYC and SMM who could not attend.

Put yourself on the schedule for the next meeting and tell them what went on. Explain what our project is for next year, the new ideas we discussed, and the different things we will be doing this year. Try to make them understand how neat it was to be here with so many Christian kids and adults from all over the country.

If you successfully pass on the good time you had to the other girls and guys, we should have a super year of working for the Lord's church and a larger attendance at Conference next summer. I'm looking forward to it already!

I'd like to share a few more verses from Proverbs which I like. They have helped me in trying to do what God wants me to, and I hope they can help you also. The first is in Proverbs 19:21, and it says, "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established."

We make a lot of plans. We sometimes decide

exactly what we want to do, when we want to do it, and how we will get it done. But God doesn't want it that way. He is the one who decides what, when, and how much we will do things. We can't order God around. We have to do things the way we feel He wants us to.

Sometimes, if we don't listen to Him but do everything our own way, He has to punish us. He does that because He loves us and wants us to learn how to listen. Proverbs 3:11 and 12 say, "My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights."

These verses became very special to me last year when I went through a real learning experience. I was going all out in making my own plans, with every detail taken care of and the days set perfectly. I had been praying about it, but I made my specific plans and told God to OK them.

It didn't work that way. The day everything was supposed to begin, the two major steps failed. The whole thing fell apart! I was crushed! I couldn't figure out why God was doing that to me. I finally realized that I had not let God handle that segment of my life. I was planning it all. Allowing all my plans to fail was His way to teach me to listen to him. He did it because He loves me, but boy, did it hurt!

I learned my lesson, fortunately, and now I listen to Him much better and I can appreciate it when He still does have to discipline me. I hope you can learn from these verses also.

Write to me and tell me what you thought of Conference, and tell me how your group responded to your sharing.

Your sis,  
Nancy Ronk

*Ed. note—We regret that there is no Sisterhood program material available for October. We suggest you use this month's meeting to study the "Manual for the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha of the Brethren Church—1974" as recommended in the SMM Guidelines.*





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The Brethren Evangelist has undergone many changes over the years. But one thing remains the same—our commitment to helping local churches in their ministry of producing effective disciples for Jesus Christ.

You have a vital role in this ministry when you commit your life to nurturing other believers in their faith—and when you support the magazine dedicated to assisting in this process.

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# *The Brethren* **EVANGELIST**

*October 1976*



**1976 All-Conference Photo**



# 1976 General Conference in Sight and Sound

## PHOTO

1. **1976 All-Conference Photo** \$4.00  
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Features Sonlife '76, group singing, testimonies and praise offerings, and Mrs. Bessie Grove singing "The Longer I Serve Him."

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Dreams for the future presented by representatives from the Brethren Publishing Company, Missionary Board, Benevolent Board, Board of Christian Education, and Ashland College and Seminary.

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Presentation of a proposal for reorganization of denominational ministries, reactor panel, and question and answer period with denominational executives.

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Features special speaker Maria Schultz who grew up in East Germany during and after World War II.

11. **Church Growth Models** \$3.00

Pastors of the Lathrop, Calif., Winding Waters (Elkhart, Ind.), and Derby, Kans., churches share how and why their churches are growing.

12. **Missionary Board Worship** \$3.00

Included are short messages from John Guli, Nigerian national; Jerry Grieve, translator recently returned from Nigeria; and Ken Solomon, missionary to Colombia.

13. **Board of Christian  
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Highlights of this service include music and testimonies by Summer Crusaders and Interns for 1976.

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**4 The End . . . and the Beginning**

*Do all churches begin to die after burning their mortgage note? No, according to Bob Keplinger, who tells how his church has found new life.*

**6 The College and the Church**

*This article by Glenn Clayton opens a three page section on Ashland College. Donald Swegan writes about new programs on campus on page 7, and the Presidential Search Committee presents an open letter to the church on page 8.*

**9 Signposts to God's Will**

*How can a Christian be sure he is following God's will? Charles Ludwig says the answer is to follow the signposts!*

**12 Living as People of Hope**

*Bill Walk looks at three aspects of our heritage of hope.*

**17 Breakthrough**

*Editor-in-chief John Rowsey describes changes in the high school Gospel Light curriculum.*

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Cover photo by Bruce Ronk.

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**editor's notes**

Dear Reader,

Did you see your face on the cover? If you attended the 1976 Conference, we hope you were present for this historic photograph. (We're sorry some of you were blocked out by the address block. To see yourself, order a photo.)

Charles Ludwig's article (page 9) is a very enlightening piece on knowing God's leading. Share it freely with other members of your church who may not be subscribers.

John Rowsey's informational piece (page 18) is essential for high school Sunday school teachers, local boards of Christian education, superintendents, and pastors. It outlines changes made in the curriculum of this department. (He will be sharing info on other departments in the future.)

"finally, brethren" reappears on page 35 with some words of wisdom from Proverbs 13. The verses are offered without comment. (If the shoe fits . . .)

We have appreciated your favorable comments about the September issue. We'd like to hear from all of you from time to time—pro and con. Also, thanks for writing your comments down so we can share them with all readers.

With His love,  
Ron Waters



# The End ... and the Beginning

by Robert Keplinger



*"God's Messenger" is a 66 capacity International bus recently purchased by the church.*

*Photos by Rodger Geaslen and Don Poole.*



*Pastor Keplinger and LaVern Fields prepare to burn the mortgage note while other church leaders look on.*

IN November 1975, the Washington Brethren Church burned the mortgage on its beautiful church building in our nation's capital. It was a day that marked the culmination of many a dream since the church began anew 33 years ago at Branch and Q Street, S.E.

Often the burning of a mortgage is the beginning of a slow death for a church. Dr. Win Arn, speaking in our church several years ago, said that any church that has money in the bank and its mortgage paid off has two strikes against it—it has started to relax rather than press forward into new outreach. The Washington church is also integrated and some have said that is a third strike.

But we have decided that we prefer life over death. Since the time of our mortgage burning we have undergone a series of new beginnings which have been signs of renewed life.

One of the first was the canvassing of an area for possible location of a daughter church. Since early in 1976, a segment of the Washington Brethren Church has been meeting on the second and fourth Sunday evenings each month for visitation, fellowship, and a vesper service. Joe and Nancy Kittell of 128 Garner Road, St. Charles City, Waldorf, Maryland, are hosting these gatherings.

St. Charles City is located 20 miles south of Washington. This development of 8,000 acres has a projected population of 40,000 to 80,000 residents.

Presently we are working with our daughter church in seeking a pastor and in beginning Sunday morning services this fall.

At about the same time we started a bus ministry. At first we considered buying just a van; then we thought about a 24-passenger bus. Finally in July we purchased a 66-

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*"Pastor Bob" Keplinger is pastor of the Washington, D.C., Brethren Church.*





*"Patriots" Bob and Dee Keplinger stand next to sign announcing the July 4 celebration at the church.*



*Joe and Nancy Kittell have opened their home in St. Charles City for the new mission work there.*

passenger bus—the largest we could get—and named it "God's Messenger."

Since the purchase we have found many uses. The final day of vacation Bible school saw 53 children riding the bus. Some extra curricular activities have also been possible because of it. For instance, our youth have used it as transportation to the Central Union Mission for a service. Youth, middle agers, and senior citizens also enjoyed a trip together to King's Dominion one day. It was especially fun to sing together on the way there and back.

While the country was celebrating the Bicentennial on July 4, we hosted a community celebration during the afternoon and evening. Activities, which changed every hour, included a cookout on the church lot, an outdoor vesper service, a film entitled "The Climb," input from various community leaders, music galore, and a closing campfire and fireworks. (Community leaders participating included the president of the Penn-Branch Civic Association, the chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospital, councilwoman of the 7th Ward of the city, and the chairman of

our local "Meals on Wheels" which we participate in.)

Members, friends, and neighbors felt free to come and go as they pleased throughout the day. We felt it was so successful as a means to reach out into our neighborhood that we are planning similar programs involving the community.

The end (of our indebtedness) was great—we had such a sense of accomplishment—

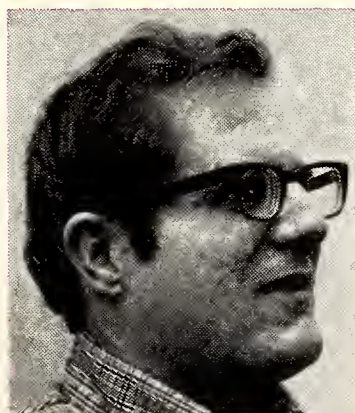
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*God blesses those who obey him; happy the man who puts his trust in the Lord.*

*Proverbs 16:20 (TLB)*

---

but the new beginnings are even greater. The Washington Brethren Church has just begun to discover some of the ways God can use her and her scattered and diversified membership in building His kingdom here in the greater Washington area.



## **Brown to Serve St. Charles City**

Craig Brown, recent seminary graduate and Summer Crusader intern at Maurertown, has been called as the first pastor of the church in St. Charles City, south of Washington, D.C.

Craig planned to be located in the area by the first of October.

The Washington church, as the mother congregation, will continue to support its daughter church as it grows in size and in its outreach to this new community.





# The College and the Church

by Glenn L. Clayton

EDUCATION is both a personal and social process. We learn to use and coordinate our talents and to develop skills. We discover that we have needs spiritually and socially and seek to fill those needs. Education is concerned with understanding, knowledge, and competence. It is theory and it is practice. It is appreciation of the arts and it is career orientation.

Education is personal in that it deals with life and the preparation for living with others while coping with interpersonal problems. It is a social process when it concerns the family, a sense of betterment of mankind, the church, the economic system, government, and law.

Ashland College begins with the person and his needs. "AC'cent on the Individual" refers here to the special needs and talents of the student. Education should begin with those needs, then move on to new experience according to the ability of the student. Personal counseling and genuine caring must be a part of such a program.

That is why Ashland College is more comprehensive than many schools of her size. Student involvement and growth means broader curricula and greater flexibility in all departments than would otherwise be necessary.

That unique interest and concern for the student as a person attracted outstanding scholars to teach at Ashland, and the result is a strong and effective program. Not only is the college fortunate to attract these good teachers, but also the student is fortunate for the opportunity to work with and really get to know an outstanding teacher. Leaders in the church and community are trained at Ashland College. They have basic knowledge of the arts, and in addition they have the skills necessary for effective living in our society.

Through the years Ashland College has been proud of her affiliation with the Brethren Church even as the pride and loyalty of the church has supported the college.

Active participation of the church on campus, working with Brethren and other students, sponsoring the Campus Ministry work, and providing scholarship money for Brethren students are but a few activities indicating this deep concern.

The Campus Ministry Program, directed by Brother Donald Snell, is an effort to coordinate church and college efforts in this area. The minister's salary is supported by the church and the facilities and cost of program are from the college budget. Cooperating leaders include the executive officers of the church boards, the President of the college, students, and faculty leaders.

The success of the program is apparent and with continued support this year, new heights will be achieved.

The number of Brethren students enrolled in Ashland College should be greater. Cost is a major factor, especially for those not living in Ohio. To offset that cost, the college makes an award to Brethren students who can meet institutional requirements. We ask the church to help meet the cost of such awards to Brethren young people by giving to the Educational Day Offering in October, and to continue the support of the Campus Ministry work.

Ashland College will continue to serve in very special ways of benefit to the Brethren Church, but the college needs financial assistance from the Brethren now more than ever as costs rise.

Will you consider increasing your gift this year?

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*Dr. Clayton is beginning his 29th year as president of Ashland College.*

*"Ashland College has been proud of her affiliation with the Brethren Church even as the pride and loyalty of the church has supported the college."*



# New Perspectives at Ashland College

by Donald B. Swegan

**S**INCE we last shared with you in the Brethren Evangelist in the fall of 1975, a number of new developments have occurred at Ashland College. Some of the highlights are listed below:

**Task Force on Living-Learning.** The Task Force—composed of parents, students, alumni, faculty, and administrators—was convened on July 15 this year for purposes of examining our living-learning experiences in the residence halls. Twenty-five persons serve on the Task Force, which functions with six working committees—staffing and supervision, maintenance and environment, security, governance, alternative living patterns, and residence hall activities.

Recommendations have been made for improvements in the residence halls this fall and many will be implemented at once. Others are longer range in their objectives. What we are trying to achieve is a residence hall program which is conducive to good learning, attractive and well-maintained, orderly, and where each person's property and rights are respected. Some faculty offices will now be located in the residence halls and certain classes will be held there as well. We want our halls to be an extension or part of the learning experiences going on in the classrooms.

**New Programs.** Several new programs developed over the last two years have great appeal to our students.

—Hotel and Restaurant Management: This major provides course work and practical experience leading to a wide variety of professional positions in motels, hotels, and restaurants. More than 50 students are currently enrolled in this program.

—Associate of Arts in Business Administration: The AABA program was developed for the full-time business person in need of continuing education for advancement in his or her profession. The 64-credit hour in-service, two-year degree is extended over a three-year period with evening classes so that participants can earn a degree while earning a living. There are currently 30 students enrolled in the program.

—Master of Education Degree: The Division of Education offers the Master of Education degree with majors in Curriculum and Instruction, General Supervision, and Reading Supervision. There are currently 30 enrolled in this part-time program.

—Health Services Management: The newest major leading to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration is being offered this fall at Ashland College. The curriculum for this program was developed with the advice and assistance of members of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration. The rapid increase in funds and manpower needed to provide adequate delivery of health services underscores the growing opportunity for professional careers in this critical field.

In addition, Ashland now has a major in Journalism-English and a minor in Public Affairs. We are also exploring program possibilities in several other areas. Plans are underway to expand our evening program by developing offerings in business-related courses which will be attractive to

*(continued on page 11)*

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*Dr. Swegan is vice president for student and resource development at Ashland College.*







ASHLAND  
COLLEGE

Ashland, Ohio 44805

## An Open Letter

September 17, 1976

Dear Brethren,

We are inviting you to nominate leadership person(s), or to apply for the presidency of Ashland College.

To assist us in this search, a guidelines committee has provided certain criteria. We recognize that it is unlikely that any one applicant may meet all criteria. (Criteria on page 20.)

Ashland College is located in Ashland, a small city in North Central Ohio. It is primarily a Liberal Arts oriented institution. It is a private, church related, residential college with excellent educational facilities and has a Fall 1976 full-time student enrollment of 1,716.

The College is fully accredited, granting the following baccalaureate degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
- Bachelor of Science in Education
- Bachelor of Science in Social Work

In addition, it offers an Associate in Arts degree and the Master in Education degree. Through its graduate Theological Seminary, it offers the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and the Doctor of Ministry degrees. The Seminary anticipates an enrollment of approximately 160 students on campus and 65 in extension.

A detailed prospectus concerning Ashland College and other pertinent information will be forwarded to all applicants and nominees. (Note: Those who send in the name of a nominee should include the nominee's complete address.)

Applications and nominations should be submitted so that they will be received by the Committee no later than October 29, 1976.

Thank you for your assistance in our search which is so very important to Ashland College at this time.

Sincerely yours,

E. P. Lersch, Secretary  
Presidential Search Committee  
Ashland College  
Ashland, OH 44805

Ashland College Is An Equal Opportunity Employer.



# Signposts

## to God's will!

by Charles Ludwig

AS the couple sat in the park earnestly discussing whether or not they should get married, Jim suddenly had an inspiration. Slipping an arm around Brenda, he said, "Let's do what the church bells say. We'll both listen for them in the morning and then after church we'll compare notes."

"Oh, all right," agreed Brenda, somewhat reluctantly. "But let's be utterly frank. We must not make a mistake!"

The next afternoon as they ate their steaks at the table in a chain restaurant, Jim was eager. "Now tell me, Brenda. What did the church bells say?"

"Their message was very clear," replied Brenda. "They said: 'Don't get married! Don't get married! Don't...'"

That's strange," frowned Jim. "The bells were extremely definite to me. They said: 'You ought to get married! You ought to get married!'"

Both of them laughed. And then they discussed the problem of their disagreement over the message of the bells. Both were agreed that their private feelings had been interpreted as the will of God—otherwise, there would have been no contradiction.

Just before they parted, Brenda said, "Jim, I want to be absolutely sure that we are in God's will. After all, we only have one life to live, and we should live that life in the best possible way." Then fixing her eyes on his, she asked, "Do you think it is possible for a person to really know God's will?"

The answer to that question is an unqualified yes! In reading the lives of influential Christians, we find that most of them disagreed on minor points of doctrine. But all of them, without exception, believed that they were in the will of God.

A person convinced that he is in God's will is a strong person. During the flowering of the Puritans, an essayist wrote: "I had rather meet coming against me a whole regiment with drawn  
(continued on next page)

With hundreds of causes beckoning, how can the Christian of today be certain that he is following God's will? The best answer to that is that he should follow the signposts!





“It is not necessary for us to know tomorrow’s detail. . . .  
The main necessity is to continually seek God’s will—  
and keep going. Even a bicycle falls if it stops.”

swords than one Calvinist convinced that he was doing the will of God.”

Alas, there have been many who were strong because they were convinced that they were in God’s will, and yet the verdict of history is that they were not in God’s will. Oliver Cromwell was a giant among the Puritans, and yet he reddened many a battlefield with the blood of his enemies and signed the death warrant of King Charles I. Today we react in horror at what he did. Nevertheless, Cromwell was utterly convinced that he was doing “God’s will”!

Even Hitler believed that he was a man of providence, and so were those who burned others at the stake in “the name of Christ.”

But mistaken zealots should not frighten us, for we can linger over the Word, spend time in prayer, counsel with the spiritually mature—and be certain.

Sympathetic with the attack of William Wilberforce on slavery, John Wesley sent him a letter. Said he:

“Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But, ‘if God be for you, who can be against you?’ Oh, ‘be not weary in well doing!’”

Wilberforce was certain, and sickly though he was, God enabled him to win.

With hundreds of causes beckoning, how can the Christian of today be certain that he is following God’s will? The best answer to that is that he should follow the signposts!

David Livingstone so treasured one of these signposts that he formed the habit of constantly quoting it. He carefully underlined it in the Bible which he carried on his “last journey.” That signpost reads: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not on thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Prov. 3:5-6).

Another signpost indicates that certain things are **definitely** in God’s will for **all** of God’s children. And since this

message has been printed in the Word there can be no argument about it. Here are parts of that message:

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mt. 6:33).

“Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil” (I Thess. 5:16-22).

This **general** will for **all** Christians is so plain in the New Testament that no Christian should miss it. It is, however, the specific will that seems confusing. Since God has a specific will for each of his children, it is important that we learn how to recognize it—and obey it. Here are some of the signposts that many of God’s servants have followed:

1. God’s will never contradicts his Word! This is one that is important to remember. For example, the woman who shot her husband because she was certain that God had told her to do so should have been stopped by the plain words: “Thou shalt not kill.” Or consider the man who was certain that it was God’s will for him never to go to church. (Yes, I knew him!) Had he been a student of the Word he would have read that we should not neglect “the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is” (Heb. 10:25).

2. Our happiness is, of course, a part of God’s general will. Jesus said: “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (Jn. 10:10). But this does not mean that all of us can expect to occupy a suite of rooms on cloud No. 9! This is so, for frequently, in order that our lives be even more abundant, we have to learn through sharp adversity. This fact points to another signpost: “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth . . .” (Heb. 12:6).

3. Contrary to those who claim to have a “hotline to heaven,” God seldom or never reveals his **specific** plans to



his children years in advance. And there are many sound reasons for this. In the model prayer of Jesus, he prayed: "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil . . ." (Mt. 6:13). That request must certainly preclude our complete knowledge of all that God has planned for us individually in the years ahead. It may be that many who read these lines will have a startling success in the future. But if they were assured of that now, they would have to wrestle with such sins as indolence, overconfidence—and perhaps worst of all, conceit!

And in contrast to the danger of certain knowledge of success, think of the discouragement that would be ours if right now we knew about all the pains and setbacks that are ahead. Such knowledge would sand the smiles from our faces. Indeed, Jesus said: "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" (Mt. 6:34).

Surely no one can doubt the zeal and spirituality of the late Peter Marshall. And yet in his youth he was convinced that he was destined to become a missionary to China! Paul had a similar experience. On his second missionary journey, he intended to visit Ephesus and the surrounding area. But at the last moment he was "forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the Word in Asia" (Acts 16:6). Then he decided to go to Bithynia. But again "the Spirit suffered him not" (Acts 16:7). And so he and his companions went to Philippi and founded the first European congregation.

These facts point to a signpost which tells us that it is frequently God's will to lead us day by day.

It is not necessary for us to know tomorrow's detail. The time of Jesus' second coming is not even known by him! The main necessity is to continually seek God's will—and keep going. Even a bicycle falls if it stops.

If we seek God's will with the desperation that a drowning man seeks oxygen, we will find it. There is no doubt about that. But having found it, we must obey!

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*Charles Ludwig is a freelance writer from Tucson, Arizona. This article appeared previously in the July 6, 1976, issue of THE MENNONITE.*

## New Perspectives

(continued from page 7)

students with associate degrees and who are employed.

**Centennial AC'cent Campaign.** The College initiated in November 1975 a major capital fund-raising campaign designed to obtain \$5.1 million by the end of 1978, the 100th anniversary of the founding of Ashland College. During the first nine months of the campaign, more than \$1.5 million has been pledged.

Goals of the campaign include the securing of endowment for scholarships and programs, reduction of some bond indebtedness, renovation and improvement of several buildings, and capital to begin new programs. All of these objectives have stimulated some interest and support.

The completion of the Ronk Memorial at the Ashland Theological Seminary has been one of our outstanding achievements. In addition, nearly \$100,000 has been pledged to complete the conversion of an unused residence into a continuing education center which will make possible many new workshops, institutes, and seminars for adult groups.

**Other Funding Efforts.** During 1975-76 the College secured for operating purposes the most money ever received during any fiscal year, showing an increase of \$150,000 over the previous year. The total funds raised, including endowments and bequests, exceeded the 1974-75 year by nearly \$100,000. All of our constituents, including our Brethren churches, equalled or exceeded their support this year.

**Focus on Students.** Ashland continues to seek young men and women who will benefit from our educational experience and, at the same time, bring strong academic, personal, and leadership qualities to the campus.

This fall we have about 560 new students on the campus—a good number, but not as many as we would like to have. We particularly would like to have more Brethren young people with a strong desire to get involved, to participate in Christian activities, to experience the Ashland "AC'cent on the Individual" program. Things are happening at Ashland College, but we need *you* to be part of that happening.

More of our Brethren members need to think of Ashland as their college—one of which they are proud and to which they will send their children. We have the programs, the facilities, and the faculty for a well-rounded educational experience. We need *you* to make it successful.



*Living as*

# *People of Hope*

*by Bill Walk*

OUR heritage of hope is in the Lord. In opening his first letter to Timothy, Paul wrote that he was an apostle of "Jesus Christ, which is our hope" (I Timothy 1:1).

This is the 200th year of the United States of America and the 268th year since the founding of the Brethren Church by Alexander Mack and others. A common factor in the founding of both was a dependence upon, and a hope in, God. The Psalmist said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). For the nation and our church, our growth depends upon the blessing and favor of the Lord, and we must hope in Him.

What does it mean to hope? Webster defines it as "a feeling that what is wanted will happen, desire accompanied by anticipation or expectation." Someone else has defined it as "a gift of the Holy Spirit which abides, an essential characteristic of the Christian. . . . (It) includes trust, confidence, refuge in God, and God of hope."

Paul said that the mystery God sought to reveal was "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). Jesus said, "Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I

with the springs of living water, or they can be dried up and parched. The choice is ours.

The hope that is within us should fill our lives with joy. In writing to the church at Rome, Paul said, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13). The hope abounding and running over in us brings a joy, full and overflowing, even in time of buffeting (see II Corinthians). "For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name" (Psalm 33:21).

Our Brethren forefathers, even in the face of death, joyfully hoped in Jesus Christ. They faced the loss of their possessions and the loss of life because of their hope. (See Richard Craver's article "Brethren and the Revolution" in the July 1976 Brethren Evangelist.) Is your hope so full that you can let go and let God have His way?

OUR heritage of hope should be invested. Someone has said the only way to increase our faith is to use that which we already have. Many programs on the local, district, and national level of our church are not attempted because we don't want to exercise our faith and invest our hope. Many people keep looking to our heritage and resting on it rather than investing it and building upon it.

In Numbers we read that Moses sent a group of spies into the land to check it out and bring a report back on whether or not the Hebrew people could take it. Two men, Joshua and Caleb, had faith and a hope they wanted to invest. Caleb said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it" (Numbers 13:30). He was not living with abandon but was exercising His faith in God.

These two were outnumbered by impossibility thinkers who had contracted a deadly, contagious, disease—"grasshopperitis." They said, "And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we

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"Jesus Christ,  
the hope of glory."

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will come in" (Revelation 3:20). The extent to which the hope is within us depends on the amount we have Christ fill our lives. Again the Psalmist wrote, "My cup runneth over" (Psalm 23:5). Our lives can be filled



“We should be prepared to give an account  
of our hope as Brethren. What does it mean  
to be Brethren?”

were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight” (Numbers 13:33).

How many plans and ideas we receive from God that never get off the ground because we have become infested with “grasshopperitis.” We need more possibility thinkers like Caleb.

Forty-five years later, at the age of 85, Caleb was still anxious to see his hope complete. He said to Joshua, “Give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said” (Joshua 14:12). We need to take our insufficiencies and inabilities and give them to the God who has none.

In 1881, Brother Henry Holsinger had faith in progressive ideas such as Sunday schools, higher education, and the printed page. He invested his hope, and it cost him something. Someone has said, “It is always a costly thing to be a real Christian, for there can be no Christianity without a cross.” That may mean we will do without things, but more than that, it means we must invest our lives, our all, in Christ and let Him have control.

Dr. Robert Schuller has said that he “would rather attempt something great and fail, than attempt nothing and succeed.” The Word tells us many times that there is nothing that is impossible with God, so let us put our hope in the God who makes the impossible possible.

OUR heritage of hope should be accounted for. Peter told his readers to “be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (I Peter 3:15). Paul’s words to the believers in Colossae were to “walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that we may know how you ought to

answer every man” (Colossians 4:5-6). It is not an option we can take or leave. We, as Christians, must be able to account for our hope.

We must be able to account for our faith in Jesus Christ. Paul said we are ambassadors for Christ (II Corinthians 5:20). When people see us, they should see Jesus come to life through us.

We must love as He loved. He said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if you have love one to another” (John 13:35).

In addition to showing our love, we must verbally give an account for our hope. What would you say if a person approached you and said, “I would like to become a Christian; how do I do it?” Would you be able to share the hows and whys of becoming a Christian in a logical and understandable way, or would you end up saying, “Well, maybe you should go see my pastor; he will help you.” Brethren, the Bible, God’s Word which we say is everything to us, states that each one must be prepared to give an account of the hope that is in us.

We should also be prepared to give an account of our hope as Brethren. What does it mean to be Brethren? Nearly two years ago, as my wife and I were preparing for Missionary Internship, I was asked, “Who are the Brethren?” What would you answer? What do the Brethren believe besides washing feet and triune immersion?

We have a good heritage. And we can grow if we give account of the hope that is in us, if we invest that hope in God and His work, and if we make that hope in the Lord. Let us build together in hope, not resting on our past accomplishments, and go forth from this point to the glory of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord, our hope of glory.

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*Bill Walk is pastor of the Pleasant View Brethren Church near Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. This article is an abbreviated compilation of three messages he presented at the 1976 Pennsylvania District Conference.*



# UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church  
and the Evangelical Press Association

## Second "Work and Worship" tour planned

**Burlington, Ind.**—Jim Payne, president of the National Laymen's Organization, has announced further details for the second "Work and Worship" tour to South America.

The tour will originate at Miami, Florida, on February 5, 1977, and end there on February 25.

Included in the tour will be six days with the Ken Solomons and Mark Logans in Colombia, two weeks in Argentina with lay missionaries Bill and Sharon Winter, and two days in Panama.

Payne notes that though the tour is sponsored by the laymen, it is not restricted to them. "It is open to men, women, and youth. There is a special welcome to pastors . . . (as there will be) many opportunities to speak to local congregations."

Work planned for the tour will include the making of benches for worship meetings, sewing of communion towels and curtains, and painting.

The time in Argentina will feature the annual Spiritual Conference of Argentine Brethren at the Eden Bible Institute near Rosario, a visit to the camp and church near Cordoba, and an opportunity to observe the church work and radio production studios in Buenos Aires.

The stay in Panama includes a tour of the famous canal and possibly a visit with some Baptist missionaries there.

Projected cost of the tour is \$800, covering all travel from Miami and back, lodging, and food (except in Panama). Special rates for connecting flights to Miami from northern and western states are also available.

Deadline for reserving a place on the tour is November 10, with a \$100 deposit due by December 10. The deposit is refundable until January 20, 1977.

Payne also encourages local churches or individuals to provide scholarships. Several have expressed an interest in the tour but are not finan-

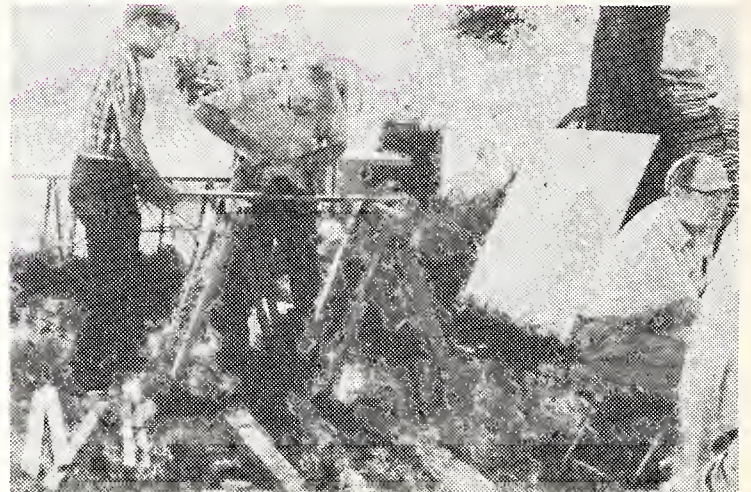


Photo by LaVergne Stone

*Bill Musser and Lee Carey built bulletin boards on the first "Work and Worship" tour in 1975. Albert Curtright is at the right.*

cially able at this time. At least five persons on the first tour in 1975 were helped in this way.

If you are interested in more information on the tour or in providing a scholarship, please contact:

Mr. Jim Payne  
R.R. 3, Box 61  
Russiaville, IN 46979  
(317) 883-7149

### Calendar of Events

**October 3**—Homecoming and 10th Anniversary of Church Building, County Line Brethren Church, Lakeville, Ind. Duane Dickson, speaker. Sunday school—9:15 a.m. Worship—10:30 a.m. Carry-in dinner—noon. Afternoon service—2:00 p.m.

**October 7-9**—Midwest Conference, Ft. Scott, Kans.

**October 16**—Ohio Conference business meeting, Delaware, Ohio.

**October 18-23**—Revival Services, Firestone Park Brethren Church, Akron, Ohio, 7:00 p.m. nightly. Walter Heil, speaker. Millard Drushal, pastor.

**October 24**—Homecoming and 30th Anniversary, Firestone Park church in Akron, Ohio.

**October 25–November 3** — Evangelistic service, Vinco, Pa., church. W. E. Thomas, evangelist. Carl Phillips, pastor.

**November 5-6**—Church Growth Seminar One, North Liberty, Ind., cluster.

**November 8-9**—Central Council, Ashland, Ohio.

### Grumblings welcomed

**Flora, Ind.** — Members of the First Brethren Church here held a welcome dinner and surprise grocery shower for their new pastoral family, the Alvin Grumblings, on August 1. Nearly 100 attended the dinner.

Jeannie Hesketh, Summer Crusader intern at the Brethren's Home, provided special music. Rosemary Eddy gave devotions, and Devon Humberger and Mrs. Russell Flora offered prayers.

Following the dinner, Rev. and Mrs. Grumbling hosted an open house at the parsonage.



## Groups plan prayer vigil for America

**Ashland, Ohio** — Several independent Christian organizations and publications are calling on Christians to unite in prayer during the week before the presidential election.

Bill Bright is directing a National Prayer Congress, October 26-29, in Dallas. Purpose of the congress is to encourage Christians to claim the promises of II Chronicles 7:14 for the United States and Canada. Bright hopes 5,000 to 10,000 Christians will come to pray.

Food for the Hungry is also calling for prayer and fasting during the 24-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. on October 29. In addition to praying for the nation, the national committee of Food for the Hungry is asking that money that would have been spent on food during the fast be given to help the hungry around the world.

In its August 27 issue, Christianity Today urged U.S. and Canadian churches to keep their doors open from October 26-29 and ask members to use this time as an opportunity to "Humble themselves, and pray, and seek God's face, and turn from their wicked ways."

## Graham "cancels" appearance at Texas prayer congress

**Dallas, Texas (EP News)** — Evangelist Billy Graham has announced he will not be a featured speaker at the October 26-29 National Prayer Congress here.

"I was invited," Dr. Graham told Helen Parmley of the Dallas Morning News, "but I never accepted the invitation." He said he has written letters to the other participants explaining his decision.

"I have learned the hard way to keep out of politics," the evangelist told Miss Parmley.

In a telephone interview with Religious News Service Mr. Graham affirmed his support of Dr. Bill Bright and Campus Crusade for Christ which is sponsoring the prayer congress. More than 30 well known evangelical leaders are on the rostrum.

A Newsweek article reported differences between the two men after Dr. Bright became involved in a movement to organize evangelicals into a conservative political force. The movement, which also involved Rep. John Conlan (R-Ariz.), was the subject of a lengthy article last spring in *Sojourners*, a Washington-based periodical published by a group of "Biblical activists" who claim to be theologically conservative and politically liberal.

Mr. Graham told RNS, "The primary disagreement I have (with Dr. Bright) is over his alleged and apparent political interests. I just can't be identified and I will not be identified with any political movement of any kind."

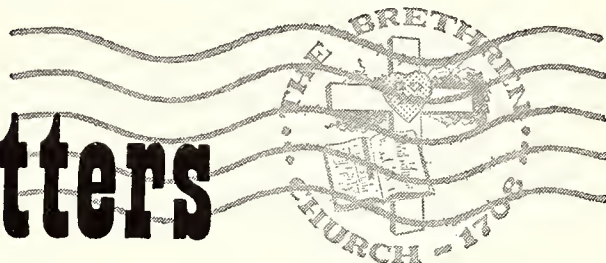
## Henry Bates featured in local paper

**Chambersburg, Pa.**—Rev. Henry Bates was the subject of feature article in the July 9, 1976, *Chambersburg Public Opinion*. The newspaper article was prompted by the announcement of his inclusion in the new edition of the **Dictionary of International Biography**. Earlier this year he was listed in **Who's Who in Religion** and **Who's Who in America**.

In the article, written by Public Opinion staff writer Marie Lanser, Bates said he was surprised by the honors. He said they may have had to do with his writings and leadership in the Brethren Church.

He is pastor of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church in Waynesboro, Pa., vice president of the Brethren Publishing Company, and secretary of Brethren Care, Inc., of Pennsylvania. He is also writer of the "Lesson Background" section of the Brethren Bible Class Quarterly.

## Letters



Dear Editor,

I would like to express my appreciation for the book reviews in our Evangelist. I not only like the reviews of the books themselves, but also the comments why each book should be read, in the opinion of the reviewer. This helps me then to determine if the book would be of some help for my life or learning or both.

I hope this is something you will continue to do. Thank you, again.

—Mrs. Carl (Donna) Shirar  
Burlington, Ind.

## "O God of Hope"

Polly Benshoff, chairman of the 1977 Conference music committee, has announced that copies of "O God of Hope" are available from the Carpenter's Shop in Ashland.

This special Bicentennial commemorative hymn/anthem was written by Helen Barnhart of Masontown, Pa., with music composed by Peter Roussaki of Athens, Ohio.

Mrs. Benshoff says the committee urges churches to purchase copies as a Bicentennial memoir and in order to enjoy the talents of these Brethren.

The music may be purchased at 20 copies for \$1.00 from the Carpenter's Shop, 709 Claremont, Ashland, OH 44805.



## Goldenaires

**Mr. & Mrs. Eric Colditz**, 57th, Sept. 20. Members of South Bend, Ind., Ardmore Brethren church.

**Mr. & Mrs. James Norris**, 50th, Sept. 19. Members of Saint James, Md., Brethren church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Cross**, 50th, Aug. 21. Members of Oakville, Ind., Brethren church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Charles Riddle**, 50th, June 1. Members of Ind., Tiosa Brethren church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Walter Humke**, 63rd, Sept. 20. Members of Roanoke, Va., Brethren church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Andrew York**, 63rd, Sept. 1. Members of Loree, Ind., Brethren church.

## New mailing lists added

by John D. Rowsey

The Brethren Publishing Company continues to consolidate the mailing lists of the denomination on the new addressing equipment. To date, the subscription list of the Brethren Evangelist as well as all mailings from the Missionary Board and the Central Council office have been incorporated. We are also entering names for the Benevolent Board and the Board of Christian Education at the present time.

Soon another major list will be added. During General Conference the Woman's Missionary Society voted to incorporate the Woman's Outlook mailing list into the master system. Work will begin as the 1977 WMS membership lists are returned to the Outlook business manager by local organizations. We anticipate mailing the March-April 1977 issue of the Outlook on the system.

One reader has commented, "I have always felt there should be a change at headquarters as well as locally so there are not duplications, which are costly." But in spite of maximum care, duplications do slip in as more lists are combined. You can help by notifying me at the Brethren Publishing Company (524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805) whenever you receive duplications. Please include all address labels (or the exact information from all labels) and indicate which form you prefer that we use.

For those sending in lists for the Woman's Outlook, it is important that you send the first names of both husband and wife in the case of married members (unless the individual is widowed or divorced). Without this information many duplicate addresses will be added to the master list.

We appreciate your help.

## Weddings

**Theresa Zwik** to **Kevin Townsend**, Sept. 3, at Louisville, Ohio; membership at Louisville church. Rev. Lawrence Fye, pastor officiating.

**Cindy Flagg** to **Michael Taylor**, Aug. 28, at Peru, Ind., church. Richard Austin, pastor, officiating.

**Ruth Rinker** to **William Clark**, Aug. 22, at Edinburg, Va., St. Luke church. James Naff, pastor, officiating.

**Sally Safford** to **Randy Gephart**, Aug. 21, at Ft. Wayne, Ind., Meadow Crest church. Paul Tinkel, pastor, officiating.

**Patricia Pullen** to **David Rockel**, Aug. 21, at Flora, Ind., Brethren church. Burton Patrick, pastor, officiating.

**Darlene Morris** to **William Eggers**, Aug. 21, at Louisville, Ohio; membership at Louisville Brethren church. Rev. Charles Lowmaster, pastor, officiating.

**Jill Hapner** to **Timothy Strasser**, Aug. 8, at home of the bride; membership at Denver, Ind., Brethren church. George Hapner, pastor, officiating.

**Dinah Lock** to **Myron Beckner**, July 24, at Switzerland Baptist church. Brethren church membership at Flora, Ind.

**Pamela Spencer** to **Bill Hines**, July 17, at Twelve Mile, Ind., Corinth church. Clarence Kindley, pastor, officiating.

**Melinda Robbins** to **Dennis Bowers**, July 2, at Sarasota, Fla., Brethren church. J. D. Hamel, pastor, officiating.

**Maureen Koontz** to **Jerry Isenberg**, June 19, at Lakeville, Ind., County Line Brethren church. Wilbur Thomas, pastor, and St. Clair Benshoff, officiating.

**Becky Solomon** to **Jim Abbott**, June 12, at Sarasota, Fla., Brethren church. J. D. Hamel, pastor, officiating.

## In Memory

**Mrs. Geneva Clingenpeel**, 66, Aug. 28. Member of Flora, Ind., Brethren church. Services by Clarence Kindley, Corinth church, and Alvin Grumbling, pastor.

**Mrs. Laura Flora**, 91, Aug. 27. Member of Flora, Ind., Brethren church. Services by Samuel Keller and Alvin Grumbling, pastor.

**Mrs. Otta Rose Rorabaugh**, 86, Aug. 25. Member of Johnstown, Pa., First church. Services by Wesley Haller, pastor.

**Lynn E. Dillman**, 64, Aug. 23. Member of Twelve Mile, Ind., Corinth church. Services by Clarence Kindley, pastor.

**Ella Kelly**, 84, Aug. 22. Member at Brighton, Ind., Brighton Chapel. Services by John Long, pastor.

**Lee O. Clark**, 59, Aug. 7. Member of South Bend, Ind., Ardmore Brethren church. Services by Brian Moore, pastor.

**Mrs. Ruby Sizemore**, 84, June 30, Arlington, Va. Services by Robert Keplinger, pastor, Washington, D.C. church.



# BREAKTHROUGH

## in new high school curriculum

by John D. Rowsey

Now your church can reach and keep its high school students. Gospel Light's high school curriculum involves, excites, and captures the interest of high school students. The Discovery Bible Teaching/Learning methods employed give that breakthrough combination that Christian educators and youth leaders have been seeking.

The Discovery Teaching/Learning approach to Bible study helps the student reinforce, retain, and apply spiritual and biblical concepts taught through:

1. Exploring God's Word
2. Discovering spiritual truths for himself
3. Thinking through the Scripture via writing/recording of thoughts
4. Creatively applying scriptural truths learned to real life situations presented
5. Personally applying truths to own life needs
6. Sharing his ideas with group or class

Discovery Teaching/Learning methods allow the freedom for the Holy Spirit to operate to meet the specific needs of each class member, as the teacher prays and depends on God for his guidance of the class session and as the gifts of the body function together in the class and through group involvement and interaction.

Here are some of the major advantages of the new high school curriculum for the teacher:

1. Simple to use
2. Easy to prepare
3. Produces measurable results
4. Flexible
5. Adaptable
6. Variety
7. Effective Student Piece
8. Multiple use

Gospel Light does not just give lip service to the phrase "Student Oriented Curriculum." It makes extensive efforts to effectively maintain student interest and involvement. The curriculum uses a large variety of bible learning activities in order to offer the student a choice which helps to insure the students' creative involvement.

Here are the five **new** high school courses:

**How to Be a Christian Without Being Religious** is a relevant study of Romans that explores true Christianity and a faith that is more than "fire insurance." It focuses on the basic Christian doctrine of salvation, new life in Christ, and how to live as Christians. The Regal paperback by the same title, written by Fritz Ridenour, is a best-seller, with two million in print.

**Lord, Make My Life Count** explores commitment to Christ, to the Body of believers, and to the world. It helps young people understand how and why these should be the top priorities in their lives. During the course, students will implement projects to put these priorities into practice in their own lives.

**Will the Real Phony Please Stand Up** is a study of James designed to teach God's plan for Christian living. Students will discuss and evaluate specific problems in living the Christian life as mentioned in the epistle. Researching and identifying biblical principles for handling these problems and situations, they will decide on life changes indicated and put these changes into practice.

**I'm a Good Man, But . . .** is designed to help students live more successfully with themselves and others. Unit titles include: "Living with Yourself," dealing with God's love and the role choice plays in experiencing God's full power; "Living with Your Friends," where students are challenged to put their faith into practice in their peer relation-

*(continued on page 34)*

### Changes Summarized

Gospel Light Publications has announced that both the teacher's guide and the student's manual (Unguide) for the high school division are **new**. Older teacher's manuals can not be used with the new material and the "Teaching Resources" package is no longer needed.

The Unguide is a "must" for the student, according to Gospel Light. The Unguide is a 32-page student guide with a tear-out sheet for each of the 13 sessions. Pages are designed to promote discussion and student involvement. The teacher should have one Unguide for each student in the class.

In many cases, the Regal book is the same as used in the "old" course because it is excellent resource material for the student. But remember, the course itself is new.

If you have any questions please direct them on to Beth Barber at: The Brethren Publishing Company, 524 College Avenue, Ashland, OH 44805; or call (419) 289-2611.



## Win Them Through Bible Study

by Leroy Solomon

The unsaved rarely come to church on their own accord. And they will not seek the gospel out for themselves. If the church is going to reach the lost in our world today, we must use every means, every method, and every opportunity available to us and take the gospel to them!

There are many churches around the world that are experiencing church growth by the use of the home Bible study program, taking the gospel to the people. There is a gap between the church and the home. The church has a responsibility to bridge that gap. The home Bible study method is a means.

I am becoming more and more convinced that the future of the Brethren Church is in the hands of the lay leaders. The churches that are experiencing growth are those where laymen and women are taking an active role in the outreach of their church. Each church should take a serious look at the home Bible study program and see if it could be an effective means of reaching the lost in their community.

From the vast array of books on this subject, I have selected five which are "must reading" for those interested in leading home Bible studies.

**Miracles Happen in Group Bible Study** by Albert Wollen (Regal, 1976, 127 pp., \$2.95).

Wollen has written a fine book on the use of the home Bible study for an effective means of outreach for the church. He says, "I began to realize that the blessing of God was on the lay leadership." The pastors' job is to work with the lay leaders and help them develop their skills.

Wollen discusses the starting of the group, how the relationships deepen as the group continues to grow, and how much the lay leader is blessed by having a ministry of reaching out for the Lord.

We need to have people get back into the practice of interacting with one another. This is the way they can build their faith and build up their lives personally around the Word of God. Wollen stresses how important dialogue is and how to effectively use it.

If you are at all interested in starting a home Bible study program in your church, read this book. "The life of the church is the church-in-the-home."

**How to Conduct Home Bible Classes** by Albert J. Wollen (Scripture Press, 1969, 48 pp., \$.75).

This is another fine piece of work by Wollen on the use of the home for an effective outreach. He discusses the many positive aspects of having home Bible studies and also discusses some of the problems to watch for in the group.

"Too many Christians are living an inward experience without outward expression." The study should be a sharing experience, where people share the Word of God—there is no teacher.

Read this book if interested in starting any type of home Bible study program.

**It's Alive** by Gladys Hunt (Harold Shaw Publishers, 1971, 118 pp., \$1.75).

Hunt says the gospel is our responsibility and that it needs to get from our hands into those around us. This type of Bible study takes a lot of faith, but we must first exercise the faith we have before it will grow.

She stresses the point of participation among the members of the group—not someone teaching, but just leading. The Holy Spirit is the teacher. The home Bible study gives people the opportunity to open the Bible in a neutral setting and ask questions.

Hunt tells you how to do this, how to develop leaders for the group, and even goes into some detail of the setting and related materials. She even lists some ground rules that must be followed for an effective Bible study to take place.

This book is an inspiration to read and can be a useful guide if you are starting a home Bible study. Excellent!

**A Bible Study in My House** by David and Sue Burnham (Moody Press, 1975, 47 pp., \$1.00).

This book is worth taking a look at, for it contains some good qualifications a leader must have to lead a home Bible study. They also discuss some of the problem areas of the home Bible study. Pick it up and read it.

**Leading Bible Discussions** by James F. Nyquist (Inter-Varsity, 1967, 56 pp., \$1.25).

Nyquist has some good input on the use of the home Bible study. He has some very good questions for the evaluation of the group by the leader. It is easy reading and worth looking at.



## Peace with . . . Me

**Peace with the Restless Me** by Janice W. Hearn (Word Books, 1976, 129 pp., \$4.95).

Here is a book that is practical, honest and encouraging. I would recommend it to any woman, especially one who may have times of restlessness and depression.

The author has divided the book into two parts. The first part tells of her wanderings in bitterness of soul. Being a Christian didn't solve her problems overnight, but it gave her hope and the ability to cope. She tells in the second part of some lessons she has learned and is still learning about being a committed Christian. She is practicing and proving the truth of the Apostle Paul's statement that the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life provides "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, fidelity, adaptability, and self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23, from J. B. Phillips, **Letters to Young Churches**).

Janice Hearn is a wife, mother, and a medical technologist (part time). This is her first book.

—Julie Flora, Ashland, Ohio

## On Families and Singles

**Family Life (God's View of Relationships)** edited by Jean McAllister with chapters by Ray Stedman and others from the Peninsula Bible church (Word Books, 1976, 245 pp., paperback, \$4.50).

The book started out to be a collection of teaching on marriage and the home but was then expanded to include singles. Each chapter by a different author gives a variety of studies but all based on God's word. The book really is God's view of His family from parents to children, singles or couples with the content directed to individuals.

Topics examine God's will on such matters as friendship, love, communication, intimacy, sexuality, authority, submission, discipline, celibacy, loneliness and many others with studies from both the Old and New Testaments.

This collection, through a study of relationships, can strengthen our identity as a child of God. Good material for a variety of uses.

**Single** by Marilyn McGinnis (Spire Books, 1974, 157 pp., paperback, \$1.50).

Written as a helpful guidebook for the woman who is both single and Christian, Mrs. McGinnis writes from the experience of one who made the choice to remain single and answer the question "Why isn't a nice girl like you married?" and later made the choice to marry.

The book is full of practical advice from how to get along on your job to personal finance, from "You and Your Personality" to "Celibacy Is for the Birds, or Is It."

The next to last chapter deals with God's purpose for a balanced life and true contentment in the relationship with Him. The final chapter looks forward to a possible future marriage relationship. I believe the book can be very helpful for girls who are interested in careers and need answers for living alone or with a roommate.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

## The Non-Christian Husband

**I Love God and My Husband** by Marion Stroud (Victor Books, 1973, 95 pp., \$1.50).

When I first picked up this book, I thought I would just skim quickly through it, since it really didn't seem to be written for my situation. After all, it was to deal with the Christian woman whose husband was unsaved and the problems entailed in that sort of relationship.

But I was wrong. This book is very helpful to the Christian wife of a non-Christian, but it was also highly interesting and relevant for me, and I believe any woman would find it so.

Mrs. Stroud gives some very wise counsel for us wives on issues that we all face, like overcoming depression or methods of communicating with our husbands. And I found the parts that are written specifically about dealing with the non-Christian husband were worthwhile too, for they are easily adaptable to relationships with any unsaved relative or friend.

Some of the other topics covered are: advice on child rearing, keeping Sundays a day of rest, a time to speak and a time to keep silent, and showing a new kind of love.

The author uses a lot of interesting, real-life illustrations throughout, making her style gripping and very readable. Her tone is very encouraging, and her counsel is highly practical. I enjoyed and profited from this short book, and would recommend it to any Christian wife.

(A coordinated leader's guide is also available to facilitate the use of this book in study groups or discussion situations.)

—Norma Waters, Ashland, Ohio

## \$500 x 2 = WHO?

The Evangelical Press Association, a non-profit corporation of 250 Christian periodicals with a combined circulation of nearly 12 million, makes available each year scholarship funds for students dedicated to the pursuit of Christian journalism.

EPA issues at least two \$500 grants annually through its "Mel Larson Journalism Scholarship" program to deserving college students currently enrolled.

Application forms are available, and must be completed by March 1. Write for complete details.



Box 707  
La Canada, California 91011



## "To him that overcometh . . ."

**Joni** by Joni Eareckson and Joe Musser (Zonder-  
van, 1976, 228 pp., \$6.95).

Joni Eareckson is a 26 year old woman who in her own estimation has the privilege of living a unique life for Jesus Christ as a quadriplegic in a wheelchair. It took nine years of suffering and struggling with fear and depression before she gained this positive attitude.

Joni shares her innermost thoughts and the realization that the wheelchair she once loathed has become an instrument of joy in her life. She

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## For Children . . . and Parents

**Some People** by Mary J. Carlson and Jack Proctor (Tyndale, 1976, 48 pp., \$3.95).

**Some People** should be read and experienced by ALL people of ALL ages! The authors have joined gifts and in words and illustrations respectively have completed a work that cannot be outgrown nor outdated.

It's contents represent the teachings of Jesus in a unique style. With each Christ-like characteristic there is an example of how it applies to the daily life of a child. God's will for the child to acquire this characteristic is acknowledged through Scripture at the bottom of each page, readily available for memory verses. Also, having God's Word incorporated in the story, gives the parent confidence in pursuing the child's thought in further detail.

The book is an excellent tool for introducing sharing time with little ones. The spontaneous conversation produced was so lengthy, we were not able to complete it in the time allotted at our bed-time story session! That's total approval from both parent and children!

—Ann DeVeney, Ashland, Ohio

## New Titles

*From Fleming H. Revell Company:*

**Totally New** by Diane Blacker, (1976, 67 pp., \$2.95). The author's purpose is to introduce new believers to the Bible, to methods of prayer, to the Christian vocabulary, and to sensible ways of selecting a church.

*From Victor Books:*

**God's Tribesman** by James and Marti Hefley (1976, 146 pp., \$2.95). This biography of Rochunda Pudaite tells of his dedication and determination to bring the Word of God to his tribesmen. The authors have given a thrilling account of his first encounter with civilization, his perseverance in spite of prejudice and ridicule, his meetings with Indira Gandhi and Prime Minister Nehru, his evangelistic tours in America, and the founding of Bibles for the World.

believes God selects individuals to bear burdens for specific reasons for His glory. Her testimony is heartfelt not only by the handicapped, but by everyone interested in satisfying their own desire to serve Christ totally. The teaching Joni provides is awesome; the personal conviction it carries has the feeling of urgency for the reader to direct thoughts toward rededication of his life.

God has an unusual way of taking care of those who honor Him. Joni has been blessed with the ability to draw with her mouth. She is able to support herself through the sale of her art work and still have time for an active ministry. Joni's willingness to share from the depths of her soul should be taken advantage of by the reading public. Through her trials she has become a spiritual giant—worthy of much honor and praise which we're certain she readily gives back to God.

—Dan & Ann DeVeney, Ashland, Ohio

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## Criteria for President of Ashland College

(See accompanying letter on page 8.)

The candidate should possess a satisfactory health record.

The candidate should be committed to sound Christian ideals designed to make possible viable Christian experiences. Membership in the Brethren Church, the founding body of the College, is preferred but not required.

If the candidate should be a married person, we would expect the family to be supportive and an aid in effective public relations for the college. The president shall reside in housing provided by the college.

The candidate should hold an earned doctorate, preferably a Ph.D. in Liberal Arts discipline.

The candidate should be a recognized scholar and academic leader.

The candidate should have had experience both in teaching and administration preferably in an accredited liberal arts college. It is highly desirable, but not essential, that the candidate not be currently employed by Ashland College.

The candidate must understand financial principles and reports, know fiscal policies and should be experienced in budget analysis and preparation. The candidate should exhibit interest and possess experience in program development and evidence a strong commitment to the Liberal Arts.

The candidate should be able to choose competent people and be willing to delegate authority to the administrative team.

The candidate should be experienced in and willing to participate in fund raising. The candidate shall be the top public relations person and should be effective in that position.

The candidate should be available for discussions with faculty and students about their concerns and be open-minded in regard to solutions. The candidate should be willing to work with the AAUP faculty bargaining agent and the Faculty Senate. The candidate should be an effective voice for the college in the larger community.

—Guidelines Committee





Dear pastor, youth advisors, and concerned adults,

I am interested in becoming a member of National Brethren Youth Crusaders. In order for me to do this, our church must send in a list of those youth to be registered. But before we can do this, we need adults to be our sponsors. I think that if the advisors understood how neat it is to be in BYC they would want to be a part of it. We always have our regular youth meetings, which are a lot of fun; but we need something more than just fun and games and lots of recreation for our high school youth. The younger kids need something more, too!

When I went to General Conference last August, I was really excited about being a part of the organization as a whole. It was great to meet other people who were also Brethren, and to make new friends. And then I came home. No one seems to care if they go to BYC or not. What's even worse, some of our advisors don't care either.

The national organization has a set of goals in which it tries to bring BYC groups together. They are:

- 1) Encourage Brethren youth to examine themselves and identify their spiritual gifts.
- 2) Provide training and opportunities for youth to use their gifts in real-life situations in their own denominational churches.
- 3) Generate enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the gospel and the Brethren Church.
- 4) Generate positive attitudes toward the church and Christian service.
- 5) Promote unity and fellowship among Brethren youth.
- 6) Recruit gifted youth for leadership and ministry in the Brethren Church in both lay and professional capacities.

Most people don't realize that we have these goals and objectives in BYC. They just think that it's something to take up time, work, and money. It is really committed to these goals and is concerned about me and other kids—not wasting time, work, and money! It's neat to know that someone cares enough about me as a Christian to help me to grow spiritually. I wish that we could have the kids in our church have the same chances that I had at Conference to feel a part of the Body of Christ.

It seems like adults are so busy with their schedules that they forget that kids need time to be together as Christians also. It's not easy to be in high school and act like a Christian when every one else is telling you to do otherwise. We would like to have a BYC group where someone cares about us and is willing to take time to help us grow as Christians. Even though a lot of kids are forced to come by their parents, we ought to have something that will be meaningful and will help them to know God. They would feel more like coming if they knew people would be interested in them.

You don't have to be old to worship God and praise Him for His works. We high school kids want to serve now. BYC can help us do this. Please help us get a BYC program started here. The deadline for registration is October 1st, but we can still send in the list if we hurry. Thanks for listening to me, and also for starting our new BYC group now.

In Christ,  
A high school student





## A Ministry of Elders

CONGREGATIONS who want to help older persons in their church and community to creatively give to church life and society have the following suggestions which they might follow.

### The planning cycle

1. Organize a task force for Ministry with aging persons which is made up largely of aging persons (those over 62 years of age) themselves.
2. Begin any planning process by discovering the needs of aging persons in your congregation / community. Check with community service agencies to discover whether a survey of needs of aging persons in your community and services provided has already been conducted. If so, utilize this information and save valuable time in instigating your program. If no completed study exists, excellent congregation/community tools are available. (See "Ministry of Elders" from the National Interfaith Coalition on Aging, P.O. Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206.) Use older persons to survey their own peers, along with younger persons.
3. Upon the basis of **known needs**, plan through your task force a program that reaches the **highest priorities** in needs. Once such programs are moving successfully, then you are capable of expanding.
4. Find the resources available (persons, guidance materials and manuals, finances) to undergird the needed program.
5. Periodically, evaluate your program, noting new needs or changed needs which demand new or changed program.

### Possible program directions

Organize a "ministry of elders." (Don't confuse this with the office of elder in church groups.) This would be a ministry performed by older persons themselves for older persons, congregations, and society.

For older persons, the "ministry of elders" could provide:

1. **Friendly visiting**—regular visits to the older shut-ins and sick at home, in nursing homes, at home centers for the aging.
2. **Telephone reassurance**—daily telephone

calls to those older persons who live alone in their own home from a particular person or a congregation telephone center. The calls determine whether the older person is well and has any needs.

3. **Escort service**—older persons providing transportation and an escort to those elderly who need to reach their doctor, dentist, drugstore, grocery store, or church.
4. **Home maintenance and repair**—retired "fix-it" personnel—plumbers, carpenters, electricians, and others can organize a service to help older persons keep their homes in repair. Usually a small fee is paid for services plus the cost of materials.
5. **Meals**—older persons helping to prepare and deliver "meals-on-wheels"; also helping in the preparation of regular congregationally sponsored group meals for the elderly (once a day, Monday through Friday, or once a week).
6. **Outreach**—older persons finding their own peers and telling them about services being provided for them.

Expansion of these ideas is found in the booklet "Ministry of Elders" available as listed above.

In a congregational ministry, a "ministry of elders" could provide:

1. **A training program for different church offices**—older persons with experience in different church offices teaching younger persons with little or no experience.
2. **Tutoring**—older persons with experience tutoring younger people in particular school or technical subjects.
3. **Calling**—older persons trained for and participating in evangelistic calling, membership calling, nursing home calling, home center for aging calling, and hospital calling.
4. **Foster grandparents**—older persons in special relationship with youth or the handicapped for meaningful ministry.
5. **Heritage center**—through a congregational "heritage center," older persons sharing the heritage of their time in special arts such as quilting, baking bread, woodworking, leather work, and so forth.
6. **Intergenerational study-action groups**—



older persons studying and working in groups which include youth, where all are seeking together for individual growth and congregational change and action on such issues as housing, transportation, health care, social security, and so forth.

7. **Cheer ministry**—older persons sending get-well, birthday, or anniversary cards to congregational members or those within the church's community. This ministry might also take the form of regular telephone calling.

In a community ministry, a "ministry of elders" could provide:

1. **The "watchdog" role in advocacy**—older

persons serving as observers in welfare departments, hospitals, courtrooms, police departments, boards of education, city councils, and legislative chambers to be sure that justice is prevailing for all people.

2. **Being consultants to community life**—older persons using their experience as consultants to business, government, labor unions, chambers of commerce, education, law, and congregations.
3. **Continuing education**—older persons continuing education for their own growth as persons and also providing an excellent resource for teachers in continuing education programs.

## Honor a departed friend or loved one . . . through a Memorial Gift to the Benevolent Board

*" . . . this also that she hath done shall be  
spoken of for a memorial of her."*

—Mark 14:9b

### Your Memorial Gift:

- Presents an opportunity to honor your friend or relative,
- Lends a helping hand to the Benevolent Board's ministry to the elderly,
- Provides privacy in giving which is noncompetitive,
- Is tax free to our not-for-profit church corporation for which you receive a tax receipt, something which is impossible with a direct gift to the deceased's family.

Your Memorial Gift will be used to further the ministry of the Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church which provides:

- Health care centers,
- Retirement apartments,
- Programs for the elderly,
- Consultation services on:  
needs of the elderly,  
types of facilities needed,  
church and governmental programs available to senior citizens,
- Monthly gifts to retired ministers/wives.

Facilities operating under the auspices of the Benevolent Board are:

- The Brethren's Home of Indiana, Inc. at Flora, Indiana,
- Brethren Care, Inc. at Ashland, Ohio,
- Buckeye Apartments at Ashland, Ohio,
- Brethren Care, Inc., of the Pennsylvania District near Johnstown, Pennsylvania; known as Brethren Laurel Manor,

—Brethren Care of South Bend, Inc., at South Bend, Indiana; known as Topsfield Terrace.

Should you desire to participate in the Memorial Gift program of the Benevolent Board, you may use the form below. A formal announcement of your gift will be sent to the bereaved family, and you will receive a receipt.

### My Memorial Gift

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
Please send a memorial card, telling of my gift, to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**The Benevolent Board**  
**524 College Ave.**  
**Ashland, OH 44805**



## The Contented Frog

William H. Cook, in his book entitled **Success, Motivation, and the Scriptures**, reports a parable shared with him by Leonard Ravenhill. It went like this:

"Some scientists took a frog and dropped him in hot water. The frog hopped out—fast! They dropped him in a second time. Same result. Then they dropped him in a vat of cold water and he relaxed.

"What the frog did not know was that the vat of cold water had a fire beneath it. While the frog sat there, the temperature of the water rose slowly, and before long the frog had been boiled to death."

Cook continued:

"Isn't that a parable all of us need to hear? We don't know how it is in the frog world, but in our world it fits to a 'T'. Mediocrity is the fire. Man, represented by the frog, sits and relaxes until his mediocre ways destroys him. Let him stay content without goals and motivations just so long, and one day he will no longer care to move" (page 35).

The lesson of this parable should be applied not only to individuals but also to churches. A church which is content with things as they are reveals that it has lost its sense of purpose. The "status quo" complex always indicates a church with no sense of mission. A church without goals quickly loses its motivation and soon slips into mediocrity. Mediocrity results when a church falls into the trap of perpetuating meaningless activity which has no objective.

What is the purpose of your church? Is it well defined? Do members of your church know its purpose and can they readily articulate it? How does your church measure its progress?

It is impossible to measure progress if you have no goals. If you aim at nothing you are sure to hit it. Vibrant, growing churches know their purpose. They then establish measurable goals which, when reached, help to move them along in the fulfillment of their purpose. Having established their goals, they develop concrete plans and practical strategies which, when worked, will result in reaching their goals.

Good plans take into account both the resources of the church and her opportunities for service in her particular locale. The most important resource of a church is people—people who are dedicated to God in such a way that they will use their time, their abilities, and their money to help the church reach its goals and fulfill its God-given purpose.

Opportunities for service abound for every church. Wherever people have needs and hurts the church has an opportunity for ministry. One formula for discovering opportunities for service

is "Find a need and fill it. Find a hurt and heal it in the name of Jesus Christ."

But plans are worthless unless they are implemented. Plans must be put into action. They must be translated from words on paper to deeds carried out in life. Right here is where the process fails in so many churches. Excellent ideas are never put into practice. They somehow die with the saying of the benediction of the board or committee.

Discovering people with the gift of administration is the remedy to this problem. People who have the gift of administration have been placed by God in the Body of Christ to enable other members of the Body to work together and to get the job done.

Do you know which people in your church have the gift of administration? Will your church let them use their God-given gifts? They are essential if your church is to accomplish its work and "get the job done" efficiently and effectively.

In summary:

Your church has a God-given purpose (see Matthew 28:19,20). This **purpose** needs to be expressed by **goals** which will bring forth **plans** which require **resources** with which you can then **act** in order to fully meet the **opportunities** for service which God has placed before you. Why not work through this formula with your official board and/or church growth task force?

### A Reminder

Our desire is to make the monthly articles in "Church Growth Forum" as practical as possible. The last issue of the Brethren Evangelist contained an excellent article on "Three Secrets of Church Growth." The "Church Growth Forum" (September issue, page 9) contained a series of questions based on that article. The purpose of those questions was to help you use the information of the article and make practical applications of it to your church. If your official board or church growth task force has not yet worked through those questions, it would be advantageous for you to do so.

### Church Growth Models

During General Conference three different pastors of growing churches shared the things they were doing which God was blessing. These presentations are available on cassette tape from the Brethren Publishing Company for \$3.00. Your official board and church growth task force could gain many good insights by going over these presentations together and discovering what ideas you could implement in your church's ministry. Order one today.





## Rosario -- Ready!

A TWO year evangelistic activity sponsored by Overseas Crusades, Inc., in and around the city of Rosario has resulted in the establishment of 35 new evangelical house churches since the plan was initiated 18 months ago. Evangelical pastors in Rosario, the second largest industrial city of Argentina (population 1.5 million) have set a goal of starting 68 new churches by September, 1976.

The **Argentine Brethren Church** is cooperating in this campaign and a year ago a Church Growth Workshop was held at the Eden Bible Institute with 70 pastors and leaders of Rosario's evangelical community gathered. The leaders are concerned about seeing 'fruit that remains' as mentioned in John 15:16. Dr. Virgil Gerber, one of the leaders of the workshop stated, "We must not simply think in terms of 'public decisions' but of 'making disciples', that is, responsible, reproducing members of the local body of Christ."

The second Church Growth Seminar to evaluate progress and reinforce growth principles was conducted in September by a resource team consisting of Dr. Gerber, Rev. Wilfred Bellamy (formerly General Secretary for the "New Life for All" movement in Africa), and Rev. **Juan Carlos Miranda**, newly appointed head of the Latin American Division of the Church Growth Department of the Fuller Evangelistic Association.

Luis Palau, evangelist, will head the Palau Rosario Crusade. It is scheduled to begin October 25 and continue through November 14 in a centrally located Rosario stadium.

An intensive counseling training session for pastors and leaders was also held in Rosario and two neighboring cities. In all, 280 people took the course, and they will staff the many counseling centers being set up preparatory to the November crusade. During each Palau crusade, thousands flock to downtown counseling centers for help in spiritual and family problems.

Plans for the crusade in November include the nightly Luis Palau Responde Television Program where Palau answers questions "live." Interested viewers will be directed to the counseling center nearest them. Converts from the centers and the crusade meetings will be directed into newly formed house churches.

Your prayers for the crusade and our missionaries in their involvement in this work will be appreciated. Ray Aspinall's letters indicate he is fairly busy with his duties on the executive committee of the crusade. Marilyn has been invited to do secretarial work for Luis Palau. Some of our Rosario area churches have assisted financially toward the rental of the stadium. Through the Education by Extension program from the Eden Bible Institute, Ray was training leaders for active response in the Rosario crusade. In addition he's been involved in helping in local church growth seminars to stimulate implementation of plans made at the Church Growth Workshop in Soldini last year.

Pray for organized annexes to our churches in the Rosario area and necessary leadership to reap the harvest from this crusade.

## Pray for Rosario Outreach

*Crusade: Oct. 25 - Nov. 14*



## Grieves to Remain in U.S.

The Jerry Grieves had been serving in Nigeria with Wycliffe Translators, Inc. Their work was threefold: working in linguistic analysis; learning the Kilba language and translating it; and producing literature in the form of Scripture, primers, folktales, or any reading material of advantage to the people. They returned to the States June 1976 after four years of service in translation.

The Institute of Linguistics, a branch of Wycliffe in Nigeria, had been informed earlier this year by the Nigerian Ministry of Internal Affairs that it would "no longer be necessary for the Institute to continue operating in Nigeria." The branch leaves behind a core of Nigerian Christians trained in translation, as well as a Nigerian "Council for the Promotion of Bible Translation in Nigeria." The council, formed a year ago during

the National Congress on Evangelization, has already taken some responsibility for the projects which Wycliffe translators and their Nigerian coworkers had in more than 20 languages.

The Grieves have located at Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Jerry will work there in finishing the second primer and other Kilba materials, commuting to Dallas, Texas, to the national headquarters of Wycliffe. He anticipates being fully involved until the end of December 1976 and will bring his work to a satisfactory completion should it demand part-time involvement thereafter.

One-third of the New Testament has been translated, and a copy of the Gospel of Mark was on display at General Conference.

Jerry expresses his gratitude to the Lord for enabling them to do the work with our brothers and sisters there. The foundation has been laid for an ongoing program, and the nationals are highly motivated to carry on the work.

You can address Jerry, Cheryl, and the family at:

1659 F. South 130th E. Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74108



*Jerry and Cheryl Grieve and family are continuing their translation work in Tulsa, Oklahoma.*

## Sharing Is Not Singular

Brethren, the practice of sharing automobiles with missionaries on furlough has caught on! Juan Carlos Miranda was loaned a car by Jim Payne of Burlington, Ind., and now the Ken Solomons, who were recently home on furlough, had a car loaned to them. Mrs. Arthur DeLozier loaned one of her cars to the Solomons to use during their three months of deputation while in the States. This has been extremely helpful to the missionary program and to missionaries home on such a short furlough.

## Nigerian Church Selects A New Name

"Lardin Gabas" is out, and "Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa" is in. The church in Nigeria born of Brethren mission efforts and known to them as Lardin Gabas is now to be known as Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nijeriya, by official action of that body in April.

Brethren may find the new name a bit harder to roll off the tongue than "Lardin Gabas," but the Nigerians felt it was time for a change. "Lardin Gabas" means simply "Eastern District" (of the Church of Christ in Nigeria). The new name has considerably more meaning for Nigerian Christians—it translates, "The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria."

The change is in name only. Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa, which became an independent church in 1972, continues its relationship to TEKAN (a Hausa acronym for "Federation of Churches of Christ in Nigeria").

At the same April conference, Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa voted to go on record as officially opposed to polygamy, a practice common among Moslem and other non-Christian elements of Nigeria.



## missions: BRETHREN HOUSE BEAT

### Processing for Discovery

Michelle is nine years old. Her face turns on with smiles and twinkles when she enjoys activities at Brethren House. She responds to probing questions and stays on the track to discovery and understanding. She and Bonnie were working together one Sunday morning as they read passages in the Old Testament concerning the life and work of Elijah the prophet. Michelle's task was to read a particular passage and then write it in her own words.

The word "prophet" was giving her trouble. To help her grasp the meaning of the word, Bonnie led her to rethink Elijah and Elisha's experiences she had already learned about:

What had Elijah done?

Then what happened?

What else had Elijah experienced?

... and so on, leading and guiding Michelle over events that she had seen enacted, drawn pictures of, and sung about in recent weeks at Brethren House.

After some probing and reflecting, Michelle's eyes glinted her need for Bonnie's approval as she spoke this sentence rather tentatively—

"A prophet listens to God and then tells the people."

A gem—that discovery—unearthed and processed through reading, discussing, reflecting, **and** being affirmed by a caring teacher. That is one of the joys of both teacher and learner—reaching understanding and sharing it. Working toward discovery is itself a fragile process. Sometimes this process requires greater wisdom and patience than we possess. In our haste to hear the "right answer" we ruin the discovery. We have to **tell it all**. And often in our telling it all, we shatter the gem of discovery, stifling the innate wonder and spontaneity of children.

The teacher must constantly seek to **lead** and **probe**, guiding a child to discovery. This requires gentleness and the wisdom to know how much to probe further without killing the desire to search and discover. Too much questioning can produce feelings of defeat. Too little may bring the student short of his or her best-for-the-moment. Each child is different—in capacity, in mettle, in tensile strength.

Our job as teachers is to learn to know each student so we can effectively guide the discovery process. What a responsibility is ours!

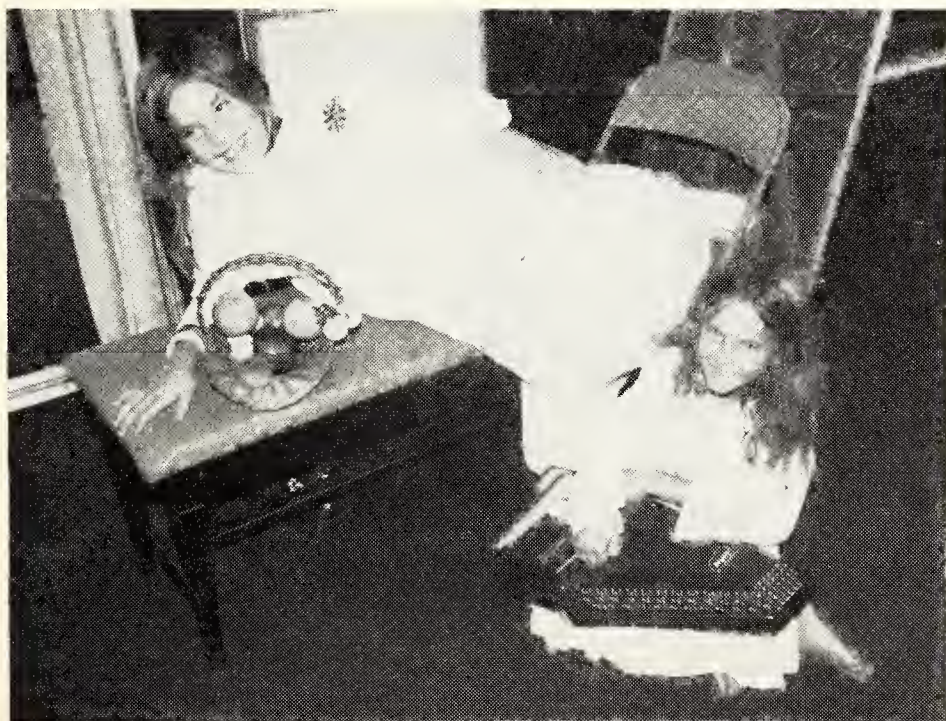
Michelle's discovery was the result of not only that morning's reading and discussion, but many previous weeks of **planned** activities. Acting, singing, drawing, observing—all had been arranged to provide building blocks to her discovery. She had participated in a drama about Elijah; heard and sung an original song about Elisha; illustrated a book describing Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb where he heard God's still small voice; listened to the reading of an original newspaper account of some of Elijah and Elisha's experiences; and had been surrounded with visual reminders of events in these prophets' lives. The reading from the Bible was the culminating activity. Her involvement previously had readied her for understanding and discovery.

All of this required time and preparation. But that moment of perception, that "eureka," that glint in her eyes as she looked to Bonnie for affirmation: that was enough reward for all of the investment.

"Let the children . . .

"Let the children . . .

"Let the children come," said Jesus.



*Michelle (holding the autoharp) portrays the little maiden in the story of Naaman. Stephanie is playing the part of Naaman's wife.*



# world relief

*Reflections from my recent tour*

## Dacope

by Phil Lersch

The 3,500 families assisted by the World Relief Commission (that's us) with their rice-growing in the Dacope area spread out over 400 square miles. As described last month, they are organized into 59 active cooperatives, each with its own officers and management. But the hub of this big operation for these 10,000-plus people is the 9-acre Dacope Service Center.

These are some of the activities we help support at the Center in Bangladesh I visited last January.

**1. Experimentation.** With rice as the main staple, it's natural that large fields become experiments for increasing rice yields. Under the direction of Paul Munshi, the Christian director trained in rice growing in Japan, **the farmers are receiving 2 and 3 crops per year instead of the usual "one."** Fertilizers and irrigation methods have helped tremendously. They are also experimenting with "dry crops" such as beets, sesame, mustard and sugar cane. Findings are then shared with the co-op farmers.

**2. Equipment Repair.** The Center rents equipment to the co-ops to aid them in increasing their yields. They have 30 pumps for irrigation, 5 tillers and a tractor—all necessary because the ground bakes very hard (even white on top because of the high salt content).

**3. Training.** Every Friday, three from each co-operative come to the Center. One receives agricultural training, one gets mechanical training, and one gets cooperative training. Instructors give practical demonstrations and share results of the continual experimentation and testing right there at the Center. Before starting any new crop, the managers are shown how to grow it best. New crops are tried in the fields and then seeds given to the co-ops. The work at the Center is done by hired workmen from a nearby village, thereby giving them a source of income.

**4. Sewing Classes.** We visited a sewing class in session for young girls—even recorded the sound of the treddle machines (provided in part by WRC). Women and girls are given a loan to buy a sewing machine. Then over a period of many months, they pay back the loan by opening a sewing work in their own homes—another example of helping people to help themselves. Their workmanship is super.

**5. Christian Witness.** Every morning they have devotions for all the workers (Christian and non-Christian). In addition, and just as important, Hindus and Muslims live and work with the Chris-

tians, and they see the Christian life in operation. One of the well-respected Hindu men in this area stood up at one of the meetings and said that for the first time in his life he is seeing that these Bengali people can handle houses and large amounts of money without misappropriating it, with many more than usual repaying what they had borrowed. Muslims from the government have come to the Center's leaders, after visiting other co-op programs in Bangladesh, and they say Dacope is the finest. They want it to be a pilot project for development in other areas. **Brethren, this work is an honor to the name of Jesus Christ.**

The afternoon we visited Dacope they planned an appreciation program for Don Smith, a WRC director who was returning to the States. Many people traveled many miles on foot to be there.

We were each given a garland of rice stalks and beautiful flowers—a fitting, warm welcome. One leader and co-op manager after another rose and thanked WRC and our American churches for the very practical aid given. "We had nothing, but now we have a means of making a living. We can give nothing in return, but we give you our hearts." This was the dominant theme. One read from Psalm 121 and entrusted Don into God's care as he traveled home.

**Many, many rice seeds and gospel seeds are being sewn at this World Relief Project at Dacope!**



Photo by Phil Lersch

*These men are working in an experimental rice field at Dacope.*



# auxiliary programs for november

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## laymen

*prepared by  
J. Perry Deeter*

### Heading for Home

Joe Nuxhall, a former pitcher for the Cincinnati Reds baseball team, is now employed as one of the play-by-play announcers for their games. At the conclusion of each game, a star of the game is chosen, and Joe interviews that particular player. He closes these "Star of the Game" shows with the statement: "This is the ole left-hander, rounding third and heading for home."

Recently, Marty Brennaman, the chief play-by-play announcer for the Cincinnati team, mentioned that Joe had just celebrated another birthday. Jokingly he said, "Joe is **really** rounding third and heading for home."

This started me thinking about a comparison between the base runner in a baseball game and the Christian's assurance of eternal life, or, if you please, "rounding third and heading home—to heaven."

A baseball player must first get on base before he can even hope to circle the bases and eventually reach home plate, which is what really counts. Likewise, a person must get "on base" in the spiritual sense by first accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

There are several ways that a batter in a baseball game might get on base. He might get a hit, he might be walked by the pitcher, or he might be hit by a pitched ball. However, there is only one way to get "on base" enroute to our heavenly home. That, of course, is through the acceptance of Christ—being born again.

Once a batter has reached first base, he can't figure that he has it made and quit. He must advance to second base, then to third, and finally to the home plate, where it really counts. Just as it is not enough to merely reach first base in a baseball game, it is not enough to say, "Yes, I believe in Christ." To really accept Christ as

Savior, one must commit his life to Him and follow Him.

I am not saying that we are saved by works instead of faith. Remember, James tells us that faith without works is dead, and I don't believe that a dead faith is a saving faith. Our works come as a result of our being saved. Just as reaching first base for the baseball player is only the beginning of his trip around the bases to home plate, accepting Christ is only the beginning in the life of the born-again believer.

One significant difference that I can think of between the base runner and the Christian is the fact that a base runner may not make it home (through no fault of his own). A teammate might make the third out of the inning, leaving the runner stranded on first, second, or third base. On the other hand, the truly born-again Christian will make it "home," because he has the promise of John 3:16. He cannot be left stranded by his "teammate," or, in this case, his fellow Christian.

The "rounding of third and heading for home" for the Christian can come at any point in his life. It does not necessarily come only to those of advancing years. This is the reason that we must be prepared at all times. We never know when we will have to face the "grim reaper" of death from this life. For that matter, we may all be "rounding third and heading for home" at this very moment, since we do not know at what hour our Lord will return and we will be caught up with Him in the air.

Whether we experience mortal death or are still living on this earth when our Lord returns, how thankful we should be that our Father in heaven gave us the means by which we are able to get "on base"!



# sisterhood

prepared by  
Romaine Flora

*"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: talk ye of all His wondrous works."*

—Psalm 105:1, 2

## My Walk

November is Thanksgiving month in our country. Did you know that the United States is the only country in the world that has a national holiday of Thanksgiving? For Sisterhood girls Thanksgiving should be part of our daily "walk" (or life).

**"Grateful."** The first word in both the Sisterhood Covenants is "grateful"—thankful that Christ was willing to be the Savior of the world. Since we know Him as our Lord we have a peace and joy that others who do not know Him cannot experience.

Cyrus was a great king of Persia (today called Iran) in late Old Testament times. In one of his wars he captured an Armenian princess, and, according to the cruel laws of ancient warfare, condemned her to death. Her husband, hearing of her peril, came at once into the camp of the

conqueror, and offered to redeem her life with his own.

Cyrus was so struck with the man's forgiving spirit that he released them both and declared his purpose to reinstate them, with great power and riches, in their own country. But while all the courtiers and captains were praising the generosity of the great king, the woman stood silent and weeping.

When the question was asked of her, "And what do **you** think of Cyrus?" she replied, "I was not thinking of him at all."

"Of whom were you thinking?"

"I was thinking," said she, fixing her eyes all lustrous with love, shining through her tears, upon her husband, "of the noble man who redeemed my life by offering to sacrifice his own."

Is this not the attitude of a Christian? Amid the praise of the world, should we not think most tearfully and tenderly of the Divine Man who redeemed our lives, not by the offer, but by the actual sacrifice of Himself?

**"Trusting in His help."** Knowing Christ, there is work to be done for Him while we are here on the earth, and each Sisterhood girl has her tasks. As we go about our daily life (walk), we need strength so we must be always "trusting in His help." So many times the task seems too great, the way too long, and the ridicule and scorn of the girls of the world too much to bear. There is strength for every step of our daily lives **if** we trust Christ, our Lord.

**"I will endeavor to be a living testimony unto Him."** The Apostle Paul tells us: "And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him" (Col. 3:17). Our daily "walk" is a testimony either for or against Christ. What was your testimony at school today? You either exalted Him or denied Him.

One thing that is necessary if we are to be testimonies (or witnesses) is to humble **self**. Christ cannot be exalted in the scornful look, the contemptuous expression, or the constant talking about one's self. Let Christ decide what books you

### Planning the Meeting

Read Psalm 100 and talk about the things for which each Sisterhood girl is thankful.

The article entitled "My Walk" is based on statements from the Sisterhood covenant. Each section of the article begins with a quote in **bold face type**. Have a different girl give each section, if possible.

Close this part of the meeting by repeating the covenant together.

"The Bent Lady" is based on an experience Mrs. Flora had in Israel. Discuss ways each of you can help those with "bent" minds and hearts" to "stand straight."

Please have each girl read the Book of Acts in preparation for the program study on that book beginning in January.



are to read. Put Christ first in your emotional life, love what He loves and hate what He hates. Your conscience is not a safe guide unless it has been educated by Christ.

Put Christ first in your social "walk." Ask Him where you are to go. Do not make the fatal mistake of imagining that it is your privilege "to go anywhere that you can take Christ"; it is not for you to **lead** Him around with you, but your blessed privilege to **follow** Him.

**"To serve others."** When our Lord was on earth, He was constantly doing something for others—teaching, helping the poor, encouraging those with problems, and many other things. As we "walk" among our friends and others day after day, there are things that we can do to lighten another's load. Love for those about us will move us to a life of service. Love is the energy of service. Love must go out of itself in labor for others. May this be said of every Sisterhood girl.

**"To do unto others as I would have others do unto me."** This is the Golden Rule, which will serve as a rule of conduct for all of life—social, family, political, church, and national life. Have not others the same rights as ourselves, be their condition or position what it may? This rule is for all lands and times. It is not only easy to remember, but it is the handiest, readiest, and best of all moral maxims.

Someone has said, "It is the 'two-foot rule' which the skillful worker always carries with him ready to take the measurement of any work to which he is called." It teaches us that in order to be able to act it thoroughly, truly, and sincerely, we need the grace of God in a large degree. It is a complete sum of all the rules set down in the Bible concerning our duty to our "neighbor."

May this Thanksgiving time be a time for "thanks-living" by each of you.

## The Bent Lady

In June 1968 my husband and I returned to Jerusalem for a summer of study. We made many friends among the Arabs when we lived there in the Old City for 10 months in 1963-64.

Soon after our arrival, while walking the narrow streets of the Old City to greet our shopkeeper friends, we saw a pitiful sight. An Arab lady, bent over from the waist with a walking stick in her hand, was making her way through the crowded streets. I immediately thought of the woman in Luke 13:11 who was bent over for 18 years. In the Arab lady I saw the woman whom Christ healed.

Numerous times during our 10-week stay we saw the crippled lady. She could not raise her head to see where she was going, but people in the crowded, narrow streets made way for her. I was enjoying the beautiful blue sky of that land, but it had been many years since she had seen it. I wanted so much to photograph her but time after time I hesitated, although I knew she could not see me.

Two days before we were to return home we had gone to the Damascus Gate in the morning to photograph scenes and people. The "bent lady" worked her way down the crowded steps and approached the gate. I saw her coming and wondered if there would be people in the way, for this was my last chance for a picture. No one came by at the time, so I have a very prized photo.

Christ no longer walks that land physically, but if He did, the "bent lady" might stand up as straight as the one He healed a long time ago. But there are "bent" minds and hearts today which He can and will cause to stand straight if He is given the opportunity to rule in that life.

---

## The SMM Covenant

Grateful that I know the Christ and trusting in His Help—  
I will endeavor to be a living testimony unto Him; to  
serve others; to do unto others as I would have others  
do unto me.

I will be mindful that vast millions of girls and women  
have not heard the tidings of great joy, and for these I  
will not cease to make offerings of prayer, time, and  
money that they may know the love of Jesus.

In loving remembrance of my Master, I gladly enter  
this covenant.

## Junior SMM Covenant

Grateful for the love that God has shown toward me  
through Christ,

I will try to study the Bible regularly; I will try to be  
kind and loving to the girls with whom I associate; and  
I will gladly help the missionaries and those in need  
in every way I can.

In loving remembrance of my Master, I gladly enter  
this covenant.



# sisterhood

## General Secretary's Notes

Dear Girls,

Hello, It was so good to meet with many of you at Conference! Thank you for coming. We had about 60 girls in attendance at each meeting. (Sorry so many of you had to sit on the floor. We'll have to find a bigger room next year.)

I thought we had great meetings, didn't you? Our Tuesday sharing time was exciting. Girls from various groups shared some of the problems they had and others gave advice or suggestions to them. It was really uplifting to hear about the successes of other groups in their joy of service to God and His church! Thank you for sharing.

I know some SMM groups are really growing, blooming, and flourishing. I praise the Lord for His work in those groups. I also praise Him for the groups who aren't flourishing. Do you know why? Look at all the possibility for improvement, the room for growth we have through those groups. What is more boring than already being perfect with nothing to work for? Well, here we have a lot to work for.

Not only the members of these non-flourishing groups have to work, but all of us need to get busy and help them. Are you asking, "How can I help a group I've never heard of, one that may be halfway across the country from me? Our group is not perfect anyway."

Well, I'll tell you. That's what our group pen pals are for. If you haven't received the name and address of your pen group, it is probably because you haven't returned my question sheet which I sent to all the churches. (If you haven't seen it, ask your pastor.) As soon as I receive your reply and have enough groups to put together, I will send it to you. So **you** do your part, and **I'll** do mine.

Then, when you get that pen-group name, write to them immediately! Explain about your group, and maybe say what you **have** done or **plan** to



do this year. Share with your pen group the problems your group has and your prayer requests. Write as often as you can, even if you don't get a reply. Keep praying for them and be patient. (If you don't hear from them for three or four months, let me know.)

If your pen group writes and tells of a problem they are experiencing, there's your big chance! Discuss it in your group, pray about it, and tell them your ideas. When they realize that another SMM group is praying for their specific needs and trying to help, they may just work harder on their own and solve the problem. (Doesn't that sound easy?) I realize it will usually take a long time for many of our problems to be solved. Again,

be patient! Just keep praying and working, and be optimistic.

Do you have the problem of no one wanting to do the letterwriting for your group? (I'm not surprised if you do.) May I make some suggestions? 1) It should definitely be done during your meeting, with everyone helping by adding ideas as you write. 2) Your secretary could do the actual writing and see that it gets sent the next day. 3) You could elect a girl to be responsible for doing the writing and sending. 4) You could all take turns doing it. 5) Of course, individuals could send a letter between meetings on their own. I hope you could send a letter each month. (If you have your missionary family, you should be writing to them, too, so I hope you're in shape!)

Do you know the new project for this year? It will be a fund for our missionaries to use when they need to rent a car while in the States on furlough. This is an urgent need for the Missionary Board. They don't have the money to buy or rent a car for the families, yet most of them come home for only a few months at a time so the kids don't miss school.

Could you imagine buying a car for only three months, or trying to find one to borrow? How many friends or relatives do you have who would lend you a car for free for three months? The missionaries have that problem.

What if someone would buy a car for all the missionaries, leaving it at the Missionary House in Ashland so the family living there could use it? The problem here is obvious. Not every family needs the same kind of car. Some need a station wagon for their bigger family. Some need a compact car for their smaller family. So, the best solution seems to be to have a fund where they can get money to rent the car of their choice to use during the time they are here.

There are three important reasons why the missionary families need a car while they are on furlough (beside going grocery shopping). First, the whole family needs to have complete medical exams in Chicago before returning to the mission field to see that they are as healthy as possible. Second, they need to travel to our churches to keep us informed of what is going on. Many missionaries travel to two or three different churches **each week** they are at home. Third, they need to spend time with their relatives whom they haven't seen for three years, and they need a car to get to them.

I hope you will feel a great desire to support this project with your money. We have a reachable goal—\$1,000—if we all really try. It will be best if each local group sets its own goal as part of the total goal. Actually, I think we can get much more than \$1,000. The more the better, because car rentals can get expensive, especially if more than one family is home in a year.

God bless you as you begin a new year in Sisterhood and in school. Keep in touch.

With love,  
Nancy Ronk



# signal lights

written by  
Alberta Holsinger

**Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus**

## In Cana

As Jesus walked with His disciples through Galilee they came to the village of Cana.

One day while He was teaching, a man rushed up to Him. The people with Jesus knew by the way the man was dressed and the way he talked that he was a government official—sometimes called a nobleman.

"Oh! Jesus!" said the man. "I was told you were here in Cana. Come with me. Come with me to my home in Capernaum. Get in my chariot so we can go quickly!"

A man was standing near one of the soldiers who came with the nobleman. "Why is he in such a hurry?" asked the man.

"His son is sick," answered the soldier. "Very sick. The doctor says he will die. The nobleman has heard of Jesus and the miracles He has done."

"Please, Jesus, come with me," begged the father. "You can make my little boy well. I know you can!"

Jesus looked at the man. He knew he loved his son and was worried about him. "Go back home," Jesus said. "Your son is healed."

"Thank you, Jesus. Thank you," said the man. He ran quickly to his chariot.

He shouted to his soldiers. "Hurry! We're going home! Jesus has healed my son!"

While they were traveling down the road toward Capernaum they saw another chariot approaching them.

"Those are some of my servants," said the nobleman. "Stop the chariot." The other chariot also stopped.

"We have good news," said a servant. "Your little boy is well. His fever is gone!"

"When did he begin to get better?" asked the father.

"Yesterday at one o'clock," answered the servant.

The man smiled. That was the time he was with Jesus and Jesus had said, "Your son is healed."

The nobleman, his soldiers, and servants hurried home.

The father ran into the house and hugged his son. From that time on his family believed that Jesus was the Son of God. They had seen a miracle.

—Based on John 4:46-53

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**Memory Time:** With God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26b

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**Project: Sunday School in Malaysia**

## Thank You!

"Are you really going to the United States?" David Loi's friends would ask him when they met.

"Yes, I'm going," David replied. "I'm going to Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio."

To himself David wondered, "How can I go? I don't have money for the plane tickets."

David needed \$500 to be able to travel from his home in Sibu, Malaysia, to Ashland, Ohio. Where could he get that much money? His family didn't have it. His friends were as poor as he. Wait a minute! What about the high school principal, Rev. Wen Tsung Lin? He might have that much money to lend.

David went to see Rev. Lin. He told him about his dream to study in the United States; about the scholarship at Ashland, Ohio; about his need for \$500.

"Yes, David," said Rev. Lin, "I can lend you the money. When do you need it?"

"On August 10. That's when I'll buy my tickets," David answered.

"I'll have the money for you," said Rev. Lin.

"Thank you. Thank you, Rev. Lin," David said.

"And thank you, God," David prayed. "Thank you for sending me to the United States."

*(continued on next page)*



Signal Lights  
(continued from page 33)

The months passed quickly because David had so many things to do to get ready for his trip. At last it was August 10, time to buy his plane tickets. He stopped by Rev. Lin's house for the money his friend was going to lend him.

Rev. Lin handed him the money wrapped in red paper. He said, "This is God's money that I am giving you. You are responsible only to God."

David could hardly believe his ears! Rev. Lin wasn't lending him the money—he was giving it to him.

"Thank you, Rev. Lin," said David. "After my studies are completed I'll return to Malaysia to tell others about God."

On the red wrapping paper Rev. Lin had written, "Brother Loi, may God bless you. May your life glorify God. Peace be with you."

Three days later David began his long trip from Sibu to Ashland. First he flew across the South China Sea to Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.

He went to the American Embassy there to get permission to enter the United States. After a short visit the American Counsellor signed David's papers.

"I'm really going!" David said to himself. "Thank you, God! Thank you!"

It was a long trip. There were many plane delays. Once he lost his ticket. Another time he lost his baggage. But one month from the time he left Sibu David walked into the door of Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio, the United States of America!

"I'm here! Thank you, God!" David prayed.

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Breakthrough  
(continued from page 17)

ships; and "Living with Adults," which discusses honoring parents, handling pressures, and relating to governing authorities in a godly way.

**How Do You Handle Life?** offers opportunity to study 12 life issues and how to cope with them as introduced through New Testament personalities. Issues include doubt, temptation, fear of death, failure, prejudice, and self-discipleship for spiritual fitness.

Mrs. George Beverly Shea  
dies, honored

Atlanta, Ga. (BGEA) — Billy Graham spoke at memorial services at the Western Springs Baptist Church, Western Springs, Illinois, on September 8, 1976, for Erma L. Shea, wife of America's Beloved Gospel Singer," George Beverly Shea. Shea, one of the original team members, has traveled as soloist with Dr. Graham all over the world.

Speaking to the family, close friends and members of the Billy Graham Team, Rev. Arthur S. Brown, pastor of the church, said, "This memorial service is a thanksgiving to our God for His great gift: a life, a precious life that lived among us and influenced so many of us. She worked with her husband in all of his recordings, choosing the numbers to be recorded, transposing music for his organists and accompanists. One of the most outstanding characteristics of Erma was her humor. What a gift from God this is to us!

One of the nurses said to the family, "When people face death and they suffer, men usually become angry and women cry, but Erma suffered with dignity."

"This is a kind of faith that can take suffering and separation and even death itself and face it with a faith that lasts," commented Rev. Brown.

Mrs. Shea, Erma L. Sharfe, was born in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, October 23, 1908. On June 16, 1934, she married George Beverly Shea.

Moon disciples who overstayed  
visas to be deported

Washington, D.C. (EP News)—The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has ordered that immediate steps be taken to begin deportation proceedings against foreign members of the Unification Church who have lingered in the U.S. beyond their visa time.

The order would affect several hundred members of the controversial church founded by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon who are here from other nations mainly Asia, to work in Unification Church activities in the U.S.

"Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened."

—Winston Churchill



*finally, brethren*

# wise words

## from Proverbs 13

A wise youth accepts his father's rebuke; a young mocker doesn't.

The good man wins his case by careful argument; the evil-minded only wants to fight.

Self-control means controlling the tongue! A quick retort can ruin everything.

Some rich people are poor, and some poor people have great wealth!

Pride leads to arguments; be humble, take advice, and become wise.

Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when dreams come true at last, there is life and joy.

Despise God's Word and find yourself in trouble. Obey it and succeed.

A wise man thinks ahead; a fool doesn't, and even brags about it!

An unreliable messenger can cause a lot of trouble. Reliable communication permits progress.

Be with wise men and become wise. Be with evil men and become evil.

If you refuse to discipline your son, it proves you don't love him; for if you love him you will be prompt to punish him.

The good man eats to live, while the evil man lives to eat.

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The Brethren

# EVANGELIST



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TEN NEW CHURCHES

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

November 1976

10 IN 5  
TEN NEW CHURCHES

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

TEN NEW CHURCHES

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

TEN NEW CHURCHES

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

TEN NEW CHURCHES

IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

10 IN 5

10 IN 5



# "One of these days I'm going to..."

- ☐ Start the kids' college fund
- ☐ Rearrange budget for savings
- ☐ Spend more time with the children
- ☐ Exercise daily
- ☐ Really study the Bible and pray
- ☐ Plan my work...and...work my plan

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**4 Four Years at Riverside**

*Men and women from the West Alexandria congregation have used their vacations to lend a hand in Kentucky.*

**7 A Vanishing Resource?**

*No. Arden Gilmer offers suggestions for recruiting men for pastoral ministry. His article also introduces a special report on Brethren Home Missions.*

**17 Growing Up—Growing Old**

*Young people and older adults have much in common and can minister effectively to one another.*

**23 "I found it!"**

*A report on Here's Life, America.*

**24 On the Drawing Board**

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MEMBER  EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

**Cover**

In November 1975 the Missionary Board set a goal of starting ten new Brethren churches in the next five years.

This month's cover was designed by Howard Mack to show the present Brethren Home Mission pastors and the congregations they serve.

Shown are: Delmer Lawson (Stockton, Calif.); Larry Baker (Cheyenne, Wyo.); William Curtis (Northwest Chapel, Tucson, Ariz.); Carl Thomas (Cedar Falls, Iowa); George Solomon (Derby, Kans.); Ronald L. Waters (Massillon, Ohio); Paul Tinkel (Meadow Crest, Fort Wayne, Ind.); Duane Dickson (Walcrest, Mansfield, Ohio); Norman Long (Pittsburgh, Pa.); and Craig Brown (St. Charles City, Waldorf, Md.). Not shown is Carl Barber, who continues to serve the Chandon Brethren Church in Herndon, Va., though he has submitted his resignation.

At the present time, the congregations of Northwest Chapel and St. Charles City are meeting in rented facilities.

Beginning on page 7 you will find articles on the work at Derby, Pittsburgh, and Northwest Chapel, as well as other Home Missions information.



# Four Years at Riverside

THIS summer marked the fourth year the Brethren from West Alexandria, Ohio, sent a work/Vacation Bible School crew to Lost Creek, Kentucky. According to Herb Gilmer, pastor of the West Alexandria church, many of the men and women of his congregation take a week of their vacation to travel south to provide the much needed assistance.

This year the week began on Sunday, July 25. During the worship hour that day at West Alexandria, a service of installation and commitment was held for the workers and teachers. The average number of workers making the trek the past four years has been 27.

And since the West Alexandria church supplies all the materials and crafts for the Lost Creek VBS, everybody in the church has an opportunity to play a part in the ministry. "An appeal is given to our congregation for our needs," reports Pastor Gilmer, "and our people come through beautifully with money and food." The Gilmer family itself made 200 plaques to take along for craft projects this year.

Bright and early Monday morning everyone gathered for the six and a half hour trip to Breathett County, Kentucky. After arriving that afternoon, the group

had just three hours to unload the food-stuff from the bus into coolers at Riverside, get settled in their rooms, clean up, eat supper, and make the final preparations for the first class session at 6:00 p.m.

This year's VBS averaged 167 pupils, so you can see it takes a lot of teachers and helpers. Three buses and a van brought many of the kids to the classes, from three-year-olds to those in high school. (In 1973, they had 89 pupils; in 1974, 169; and in 1975, 138.) The five-day school concluded on Friday evening.

During the daytime on Tuesday through Friday, everyone pitched in to ready Riverside Christian Training School for its fall classes. Doran and Nancy Hostetler guided the willing workers to the most urgent projects. Morris Worster and Larry Monroe also gave the group direction.

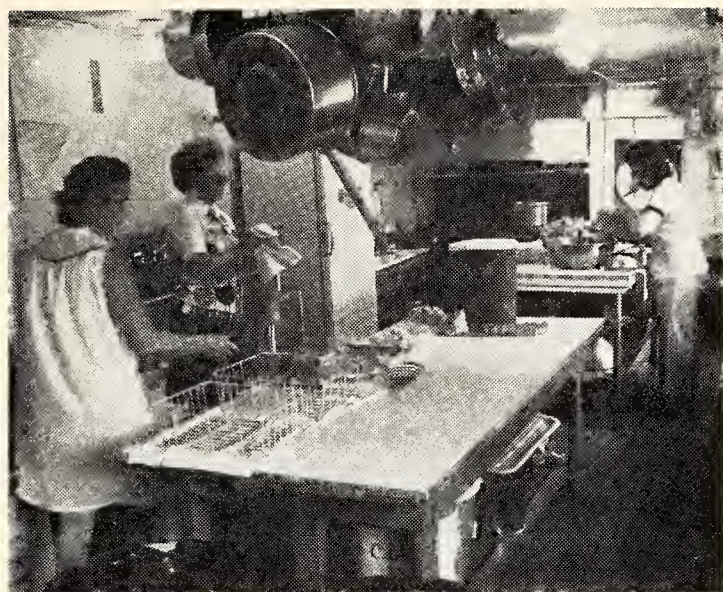
Several work projects were completed during the week. A new sidewalk and steps were poured at the entrance into the cafeteria kitchen. Painting was done in a number of the school's classrooms. Since a mobile home had been purchased as the new home for the school's library, all the books in the old library had to be



*Because it was so hot, Pastor Gilmer held his class for seventh and eighth graders under the tree. This year he had 30 in his class.*

*Photos by Larry Monroe*





*The kitchen crew kept everyone well fed during the week.*

transferred. The old library was then converted into two new classrooms. A new room was also closed in to form a food storage area for the cafeteria.

The ladies who were not helping complete these projects were busy in the kitchen, preparing the meals for the

hungry work crews. "We all eat heartily, and the food is excellent," confides Pastor Gilmer. It should be, since Mrs. Gilmer was in charge of collecting the food in Ohio before the trip and seeing that it arrived safely in coolers on the bus.

Following the Friday night VBS session,

*Over 160 pupils line up to enter the church for the opening of VBS. Three buses and a van bring many to the meetings.*







*A new sidewalk replaces an old one. Members of the West Alexandria church spent their day-time hours readying Riverside for its fall classes.*

*Photos by Larry Monroe*

members of the Lost Creek church served refreshments to the workers from the North. Bobby Dean Moore, pastor of the church, then presented the group with special recognition certificates and a plaque for the services they had rendered.

And the week was not without lasting spiritual results. Pastor Gilmer reports 29 received Christ for the first time, and there were 11 rededications. "We all praise God for the increase that He gave. Pastor Moore is going to follow up in the homes where decisions were made. We are writing letters and sending helpful literature."

On Saturday, July 31, a busload of tired workers and teachers returned to West Alexandria, Ohio. But was that the end? No. "This year we mailed 14 Bibles to

seventh and eighth graders who indicated they had no Bible of their own. And, as other years, our teachers have written to students that they had taught. It has been a gratifying experience."

And what of 1977? Plans call for the Lost Creek church to furnish all the teachers they can, and West Alexandria will fill in as needed. "We pray for workers and teachers for the last week in July 1977."



If you feel led to be one of those workers, contact Rev. Herb Gilmer, 16 E. Second St., West Alexandria, Ohio 45381. He will be happy to hear from you.

*It's a big job to connect the old with the new. Here Jim Davis and Dave Gunsalus close in a new food storage room for the cafeteria.*







## A Vanishing Resource?

by Arden Gilmer

**A**RE the resources necessary for growing, vital, thriving local churches vanishing? Many Americans are deeply concerned about the vanishing natural resources on which so much of our daily living depends. Are the resources of the local church vanishing too?

What resources are needed for the local church to function and expand? The most important is **people**. Without people who are dedicated to service, the activity of God is severely limited. Are people a vanishing resource? Absolutely not! The number of people in the world increases every minute. But though the "people" resource is not vanishing, it remains largely untapped for the work of the Lord through His church.

Right now, in the Brethren Church, there is a specific and urgent need for a particular kind of people—**PASTORS**. Currently about ten percent of our churches have no pastor. In addition only one new Brethren student entered Ashland Theological Seminary this fall. So there is a desperate need for pastors and recruits for the pastoral ministry.

We believe that it is God's will for the church to grow. We also believe the Brethren Church has an exciting, life-changing message which our world needs to hear. But, for the Brethren Church to fulfill her task, she must have effective pastoral leadership.

We believe that God wants us to plant **ten new churches** in the next five years. That means that we are going to need more pastors to fulfill the will of God. I

*Rev. Arden E. Gilmer is Director of Evangelism/Church Growth for the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church.*

believe that there are many young men in the Brethren Church **right now** who need to be challenged for the pastoral ministry. God has supplied these men—do we have "eyes" to see and to recognize who they are? Will we take the initiative to speak to them about the call of God on their lives? Will we encourage them to make positive decisions to serve the Lord in the pastoral ministry?

There are several positive steps we should take now to tap the resource of young men which God has given us:

1. We must join together in **united prayer** regarding this urgent need. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore **beseech** the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest (Matthew 9:37-38, NASB). Every Sunday every Brethren church should pray earnestly for men to respond for service in the pastoral ministry.

2. Both pastors and churches must work to **improve the image** of the pastorate. Negative thinking and talking by both pastors and congregations discourages men from giving their lives in pastoral ministry. But men will be attracted when they see pastors and congregations loving each other, working together for the gaining of souls, and reaching their exciting potential for service in their communities.

3. Present **pastors** must take an active role in **recruiting specific men** by challenging them to service and modeling the ministry for them. They need to make the effort to take men with them as they perform their pastoral functions so that

*(continued on page 14)*

Are the resources necessary for growing local churches being depleted? No, they are simply untapped!



# Derby Brethren are learning that

## *"Anything is Possible . . ."*

*by George Solomon*

**W**HAT an amazing statement that is! And it is true, "... if you have faith." Jesus said it (Mark 9:23, The Living Bible), and we at the First Brethren Church of Derby, Kansas, believe it. In fact, it is the key to the growth we have experienced during the past three years.

God has honored the faith of His people! The Bible reminds us that "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6). We surely cannot expect God to bless that with which He is not pleased.

It is never enough to merely want to grow (although that is also a key for potential growth); a church must also exercise faith and believe that it can grow. There was no doubt that the Brethren in

## *10 in 5 . . .*

Derby wanted to grow, but until we came to the place in our own spiritual lives where we could trust God and believe that we really could grow, nothing much happened.

When God's people begin exercising faith, they begin to expect to see new faces in the services. And they further expect God to work his miracle of change in the lives of those who come. Such a faith changes attitudes and the whole atmosphere of the Sunday school and the worship hour becomes charged with anticipation. People begin praying and expecting God to answer their prayers! It is absolutely a useless exercise to pray for something without believing that God can and will give us what we ask (within His will).

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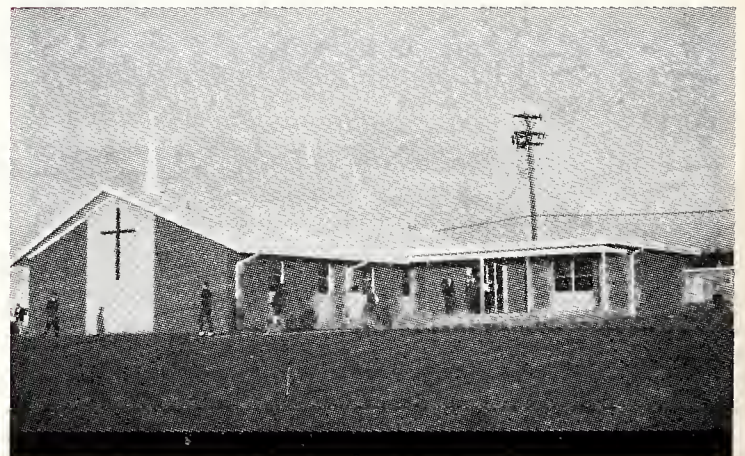
*Rev. George Solomon is pastor of the First Brethren Church of Derby.*

It has been an exciting experience to watch God open doors and open hearts as his people pray expectantly! In the second quarter of 1973—a time when Derby had no pastor—the average Sunday school attendance was 24 and the worship hour averaged 25. In the same quarter in 1976 the Sunday school averaged 81 and the worship hour, 103.

God has been giving us mostly young families with small children. While this brings real joy to us (and we praise the Lord for it), it has created a definite space problem in our children's departments. For instance, on September 12 we had 50 children plus their teachers and workers in an area that measures 40 by 50 feet. Try to imagine having a nursery and graded classes for 50 children within this very limited facility.

Because this situation occurred again and again, we had to face up to another fact in church growth: "To fail to plan is to plan to fail." So we began praying and planning for physical growth—for space—knowing that if we failed to do so soon enough, we could be certain that our growth pattern would come to a screeching halt!

With only a couple hundred dollars in a building fund, we elected a building



*The Derby congregation had outgrown its educational space. New facilities were required.*



“When God’s people begin exercising faith, they begin to expect to see new faces in the services. Such a faith changes attitudes . . . and the worship hour becomes charged with anticipation.”

committee and assigned them the task of surveying our needs and bringing a report to the congregation. Plans for a new Sunday school addition to the present building were drawn up. However, the estimated cost was more than our people could reasonably handle at this time. (Exercising faith doesn’t rule out the need for careful planning.)

But God led us in unexpected paths. We decided to delay the larger project and to proceed instead with one that was nearer our means—yet which also required a faith commitment from our people. Our plan was to build a new parsonage and to convert the old parsonage into a Sunday school annex.

We are now nearing the completion of a new and very adequate home located on a lot just north of the present parsonage (in a lot that had been the pastor’s garden). The house was purchased as a total package (excepting the basement) with the carpenters framing it and members and friends of the congregation doing the rest of the work.

To date we have made great progress in this venture of faith (and work). It will soon be ready for our family to occupy, freeing the present parsonage to be used for the Sunday school annex. The

rooms in the old house are quite large and well suited for this purpose. (The Derby congregation met in this house for two years before they built their present church building.)

Planning for the future in the area of physical needs of a congregation is as important as any other planning. Available facilities will determine to a great measure the size of the congregation.

Yes, Derby has desired growth, believed that growth could occur, and moved out in faith by developing a master plan for growth. We have set membership and attendance goals for a five year period. We have classes to disciple new believers and to nurture the more mature Christians—we have not sought to stress numerical growth at the expense of spiritual growth. And we have planned the expansion of the physical plant, including a Sunday school addition slated to be added on the north side of the present facility in two years and a new sanctuary on the south side in five years. This master plan also has room for adequate parking, which is also essential.

We believe that God is going to bless us with continued growth, and we are moving out in faith and planning for it! Brethren, pray for us!



*The congregation elected to build a new parsonage on property adjacent to the present parsonage.*



*The old parsonage is being converted into a Sunday school annex. Before the congregation built its church building, they used this house for worship and study.*



## Busing in Pittsburgh

by Norman Long

**T**HOUGH the Pittsburgh First Brethren Church has had a church bus for many years, we've only had a **bus ministry** for seven months and believe me, there is a big difference between the two!

It all started when our church growth task force, which was begun in the spring of 1975, began prayerfully searching for the right "handle" for growth here. First Church has been very aggressive evangelistically over the years but with minimal results. The long-looked-for key was discovered when one of our families came back from visiting relatives in Riverside Brethren Church in Johnstown. They were excited when they discovered that church had doubled its attendance in one year through a bus ministry. They wondered if maybe this was the method we had been looking for.

In order to find out more about it, we took two carloads of our people to Johnstown on Saturday, September 6, to observe firsthand how it works. We met with them at the church and went out with them on their Saturday bus routes, coming back convinced that with God's help we could do it too!

The task force made the initial plans, ordered the needed materials, and solicited the workers. The first weekend of our own bus ministry was the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 22 and 23. That first Sunday we had 15 people on the bus—not a very big beginning but at least a start. Since then our Sunday school and worship attendance have grown 55 and 59 percent, respectively—Sunday school attendance has gone from 36 to 65, and our worship attendance from 60 to 101. We praise God for this increase in just seven months—and most of it has been due to the bus ministry.

A bus ministry, however, is not primarily a matter of statistics. It is primarily a means for winning lost souls to the

Lord Jesus Christ. There have been a number of people who have made their public professions of faith as a result of this ministry, and four of those have already been baptized. This kind of spiritual results makes all the effort worthwhile.

And it is hard work. We meet every Saturday morning at 9:15 for a bus workers breakfast. At that time we share progress reports, problem areas, and prayer requests. Then after a time of prayer we split up into teams of two and go calling door-to-door in our bus ministry areas. After being out from an hour and a half to three hours, we come back to church to report our results to the bus captains, who spearhead the calling and keep map records of the areas covered. (Bus number one captain is James T. McLaughlin, with assistant John Fechke. Bus number two co-captains are John & Eleanor Lynch.)

Then on Sunday morning the telephone callers phone everyone who is to be picked up an hour ahead of time to make sure they're still planning to come, (and in



One of the two buses used by Pittsburgh First Brethren.

*Rev. Norman Long is pastor of the First Brethren Church of Pittsburgh.*



"Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

Luke 14:23

some cases to wake them up in time). The bus teams meet at their buses in the backyard of the church and time their runs in order to be back at the church by 9:45.

The bus ministry has affected many parts of the church's life. As the Sunday school began growing, we had to begin adding teachers and new classes. Also we wanted to provide a worship experience geared to the children, so we added a children's church during the 11 o'clock worship service, with junior and primary divisions. This all took additional workers, teachers, and helpers. But it is this kind of problem, caused by "growing pains," for which we praise God.

In addition to the added Sunday school and junior church workers, we have about 12 bus workers each week. One of the advantages of a bus ministry is that there's a job for everyone, from telephone callers and bus maintenance people to doorbell ringers and Sunday school teachers. We also have a lay coordinator, Bill Marsh, who sees that the whole program runs smoothly, thus taking a heavy load off the pastor.

Another very integral part of the ministry is the Thursday night visitation program in which we make evangelistic calls on those who have had some contact with our church, either as visitors or referrals or as contacts through the bus ministry.

Financing has been no problem. I firmly believe that "whatever God orders, He pays for!" The money has come from gifts over and above the regular budget. These gifts are received in three ways: 1) we have special envelopes marked "BUS" in every pew so that at any time anyone may make an offering; 2) we have cardboard bus banks to take home, and we have

asked each family to put in one cent for each person in Sunday school the previous Sunday; and 3) we sell "shares" at \$5.00 each to finance the purchase of new buses, with each donor receiving a certificate telling how many shares they have purchased. In March we added a second bus, but in June it burned up in a garage fire, so right now we're trusting the Lord for enough insurance money to replace it. We hope to add a third bus soon.

In February four of us attended a four-day Bus Ministry Conference at the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, Virginia. This Conference was very helpful to us in terms of "how-to-do-it" training and "you-can-do-it" inspiration. I would strongly recommend this kind of training for anyone interested in a bus ministry.

Why have a bus ministry, you may ask? The major focus must never be on numbers or programs or publicity or even transportation, but always on winning souls—and not just the children. We believe it's a wasted effort if we're not reaching whole families. One of the ways the Lord encouraged us in this emphasis is that the very first people we reached through the bus ministry was a whole family—Mom, Dad, and three sons. One of our problems in the inner city of Pittsburgh is that we have no parking available, so the buses enable us to bring in many people without taking up much parking space.

The exciting thing for us about our bus ministry is that it gave us a means of actually reaching the church growth goals we had set for ourselves almost "tongue-in-cheek"! As new faces began appearing,  
*(continued on page 16)*

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*Ten new churches  
in the next five years. . . .*



## We're on the Way!

by Bill Curtis

ON the weekend of September 21, 1975, a small group of Brethren from the church in Tucson, Arizona, met together on Mount Lemmon in a spiritual retreat. It was a time of soul-searching and asking the Lord to indicate what He would have them do in order to extend Christ's witness in this city of almost 400,000 people. From the prayer, Scriptural study, and discussion of that meeting 8,000 feet up on the mountain, bold ideas and dreams were born.

The concept of a second congregation of Brethren in Tucson was soon in everyone's minds. A challenge was put before the church, decisions were made, and a target date was set for the first meeting of the Northwest Brethren Chapel. I was called to be the pastor, and plans were initiated to rent several rooms in the newly completed Thornydale Elementary School in northwest Tucson.

Clarence Stogsdill, pastor of the Tucson First Brethren Church, challenged the new congregation as each person lit a candle to symbolize a new light in a new

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**The dream of a second Brethren church in Tucson has become a reality.**

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area of growing Tucson. The new group of Brethren began their meetings on January 18, 1976, with Sunday school and worship hour. Three weeks later an evening service was begun.

Visitation workers have discovered that the majority of the residents in the new area are unchurched. We made visits to every home in the community around the school, extending invitations to join us.

*Rev. Bill Curtis is pastor of the Northwest Brethren Chapel.*

We then followed up those who showed interest.

Special film and musical programs were planned and announcements sent by bulk mail attracted many visitors. But we have learned that most come through **personal** invitation or contact—there is no substitute for this.

On April 4, the first three persons were baptized. That same evening we held our first communion service, with 30 present. It reminded us of the time the early Brethren held their first baptism and communion service in America, on Christmas Day, 1723. For those of the new congregation it was a precious experience with the Lord and their fellow Brethren.

Believe it or not, our summer season was an even greater blessing than the spring. Attendance was up in all the meetings, and there was an increased attitude of enthusiasm. Our evening Family Bible School was a Spirit-powered success, as teachers and helpers from both congregations worked together. The participation in the adult class alone was 20 strong. Average overall attendance was 60 in the six classes.

Good interest was also shown in the three-week camping program near the Mexican-American border. And we were really thankful for the help of the two Crusaders, Jon Barber and Tim Rowsey, who assisted us in the Bible school and camp ministries. Praise God for our young people!

News that the Missionary Board has extended the current Growth Partner call to Tucson encourages us very much. Our hope is that each one who contributes to this venture financially or through prayer will someday have the blessing of worshipping with the Brethren of the Northwest Chapel.

Our charter membership list remains open until the end of October. By then we hope to have received other new members and experienced many more decisions as  
(continued on page 14)



# Growth Partners

This past year the Ten Dollar Club continued its 25 year existence, but with a new name. The Missionary Board wanted this supportive group to have an identifying name so that members would feel very much a part of the church growth emphasis within the Brethren Church.

All Brethren take pride in seeing the denomination's current growth and now have opportunity to participate further in the planting of new churches through the Growth Partners Club.

The present call is for the new work in Tucson, Arizona—Northwest Brethren Chapel. Your contributions will assist them in buying a site for building this church—and you'll be a real participant in building ten new churches in the next five years.

The congregation of Northwest Brethren Chapel is presently meeting in the Thornydale Elementary School building. Their goal is to be self-supporting in two years. The current Growth Partners call has been assigned to them on the basis of church growth performance and potential for growth by evangelistic outreach. If you are not already a partner in building new churches, sign up as a future Growth Partner, Door Keeper, or Faith Builder.



*They strengthened their hands  
for this good work!*

*Nehemiah 2:18*

## Growth Partners Club

(membership application)

In partnership with the Lord, I promise to assist in building new Brethren churches by giving for each new church project (no more than twice annually):



\$10.00 (or more)	GROWTH PARTNERS
\$25.00 (or more)	DOOR KEEPERS
\$50.00 (or more)	FAITH BUILDERS

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Solicitor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To become a member of the Growth Partners Club, please complete this form and mail along with your check for the above amount to:

Missionary Board of The Brethren Church  
530 College Avenue Ashland, Ohio 44805



## A Vanishing Resource?

(continued from page 7)

they can see their work firsthand. The pastor's attitude toward his ministry will carry great weight in the decision of the potential recruit.

4. Current Sunday school teachers and youth leaders must pray for and challenge young men in their classes and youth groups to consider the pastoral ministry. One Sunday school teacher prayed that his entire class of junior high boys would end up in the ministry. As a result of this teacher's prayers, encouragement, and constructive counsel, many of them did answer the call to the ministry.

5. For the time being, at least, we must be very specific in issuing the call for pastoral ministry. In our age of specialization, the work of the "general practitioner" is sometimes minimized. But 99 percent of the time, he is the one God uses to touch people right where they live. Our denomination is made up of many small congregations. Right now, we need pastors much more than we need specialists. As we grow this will change, of course.

6. Local congregations should take the initiative in calling men out of her midst to the ministry. Somehow we have gotten into the routine of waiting until a man notifies the church of his call. Then the church acts. But shouldn't the church also exercise discernment and speak as the voice of God to young men and challenge them. This would be a healthy annual experience for the local church and for the men she would call.

7. Brethren parents should encourage their sons to consider the pastoral ministry. The spiritual life of the family and the attitude of the parents is crucial to recruiting men for ministry.

8. We must act in faith, believing God is indeed calling men to pastoral ministry. We can express our faith by surging ahead in our desire to plant new churches, believing that God will honor our faith by raising up laborers for the harvest—men to serve both existing congregations and new ones being started.

The Brethren Church has a need for

pastors. God has promised to supply our needs (Phil. 4:19). The men are there. But we must pray for them and speak to them, challenge them and guide them into the pastoral ministry. The resource is there. Let's work to tap it for God's glory.

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## We're on the Way!

(continued from page 12)

our people lead others to a knowledge of Christ as Lord of their lives and Savior of their souls.

The Campus Crusade effort "Here's Life, America" is scheduled in Tucson November 14 through December 4. Our church will be involved, and as many of our people as possible will be actively engaged in this citywide evangelistic effort which has spiritually transformed the lives of thousands in large cities across our great land. Please be praying with us that results far beyond our fondest thoughts will come about as Jesus comes into the lives of many in and around this city. May Christ be praised for that which He is going to do.

The move of my family from the east side of Tucson to the northwest area should greatly aid my work. The Lord allowed the sale of the Juarez Street property and purchase of the new home at 1540 W. Chapala Drive all in the month of June. No move is easy and there are always frustrations; but the Lord provided everything needed. God is leading in a wonderful way!

Jesus once said to His disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile." The "call of the desert" is not heard by many in the summertime, but the lovely winter weather in Tucson always brings a host of visitors and winter residents to the heart of the saguaro cactus desert. If you pass through this way soon, won't you worship with us and pray with us and witness what the Lord has already been doing through your prayers and giving. May our wonderful Lord continue to bless each of us as we concern ourselves in the building of His church.

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# *Ten new churches in the next five years. . . .*





*Brethren Home Mission pastors shared breakfast and fellowship together at the 1976 "Management for Growth" seminar.*

## *Mission pastors trained through workshops*

— The past three consecutive years Brethren Home Mission pastors have been enrolled in special workshops sponsored by the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church. We believe each of these men brings to his ministry a good basic education, experience, and desire. The purpose of the workshops has been to fully stimulate them in their ministries and to provide the added input needed to help them realize their potential.

The first seminar was held in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1974 on church growth/evangelism. Resource personnel were Win Arn, executive director of the Institute for American Church Growth, and Brethren Church leaders Virgil Ingraham, John Rowsey, Fred Burkey, and Arden Gilmer.

The men studied two basic areas: 1) church growth principles as they relate to the local church and their application in each situation to make multiplication and addition to the body of Christ a living reality; and 2) the need for lay involvement in evangelism in the local church and how the Laymen Alive program could provide a breakthrough from a program of learning to practical application in daily life.

The second seminar, in 1975, focused first on the man and his ministry and then presented the principles of time management, goal setting, strategy, planning, and such other essentials which contribute to lasting growth. The same resource leaders served again.

Though pastors are unique in their experience and gifts, they still must keep adding skills to

their abilities. One area seems universally needed—management. The Scriptures speak of the success of good management, and pastors were led in learning these skills in a management for Growth" seminar in March 1976. Olan Hendrix, a Christian involved in management consultation, provided the input.

One morning during this seminar the Home Mission pastors congregated for a breakfast meeting and sharing time with Missionary Board General Secretary Virgil Ingraham and Arden Gilmer, director of evangelism/church growth.

Special training such as this improves the probability of growth and success in each Home Mission situation. We are retaining and encouraging these pastors to keep a team spirit thriving in the Brethren Church.

### **Wycliffe Schedules Day of Prayer**

The Wycliffe World Day of Prayer is November 11. Remember Jerry Grieve as he continues with Wycliffe Bible Translators in his work on the Kilba language. Your prayers will strengthen those nationals overseas carrying on the burden of translation and printing with Wycliffe organization people no longer in Nigeria. Pray for the Bibleless tribes throughout the world.

# *10 in 5 . . .*



## Busing in Pittsburgh

(continued from page 11)

we could sense the excitement that finally, after many years on a plateau, we were moving forward again.

Our theme verse is found in Luke 14:21

and 23: "Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame . . . Go out into the highways and along the hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Praise God, we see this happen in Pittsburgh!

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## "Thank you, Brethren"

by Henry Bates and Fred Hammond

THE members and friends of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church wish to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to Brethren people across the land who had a part in making possible the building of the Sunday school addition to our church.

Our thanks go first to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church for designating this much-needed building as the Growth Partners (Ten Dollar Club) project for the first call of 1976. We also express our deepest gratitude to the Brethren across the denomination who responded to this call, as well as to those who contributed through other channels.

As a result of this building program the Wayne Heights Brethren Church (which, incidently was the second Ten Dollar Club church built—back in 1952!) now has adequate Sunday school facilities. For the past 23 years all classes met either in the sanctuary or in the church base-

ment, with nothing but cloth curtains separating one class from another. The new building, which matches the sanctuary so well that one might think that they were built at the same time, is approximately 85 feet by 32 feet. It contains 11 class rooms, rest room facilities, and a beautiful foyer which leads into either the sanctuary or the educational area.

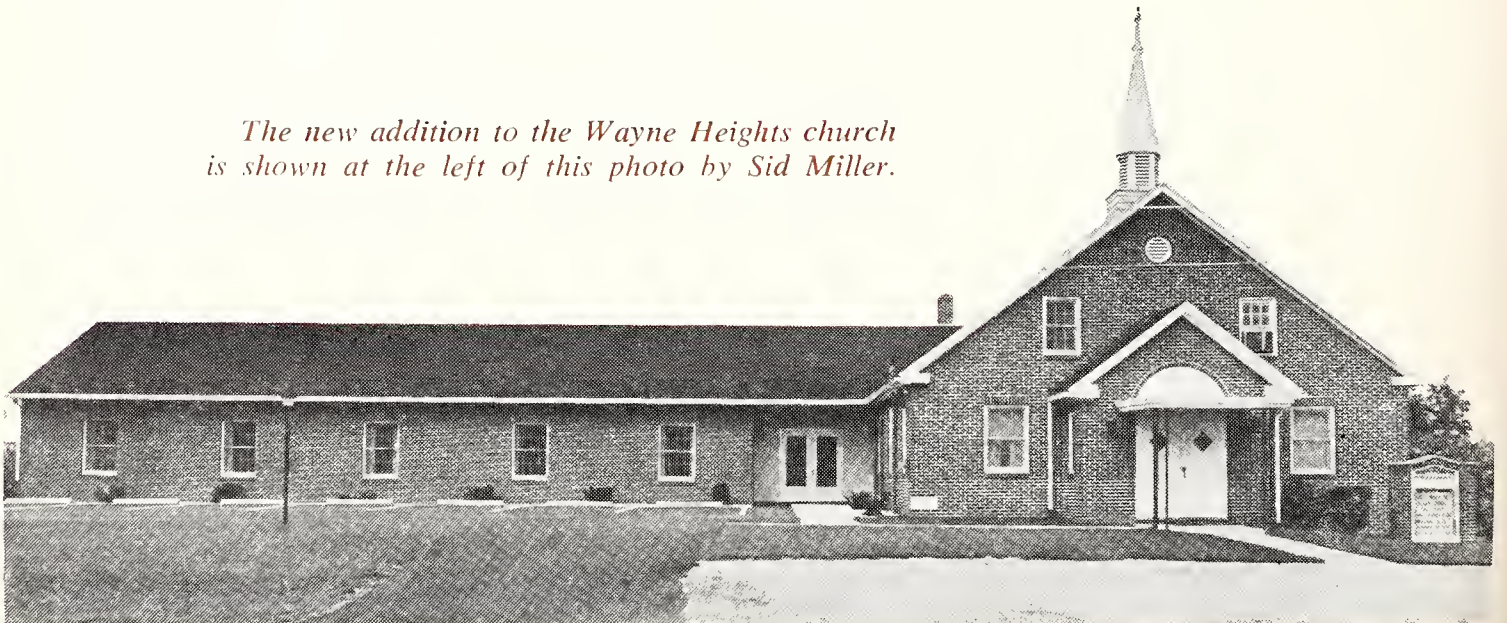
At this time when the Brethren Church is emphasizing church growth, we rejoice in this growth in our physical plant and in the growing opportunities which this building affords us. We solicit the prayers of the brotherhood, that spiritual and numerical growth might also be ours during the coming year.

Once again permit us to say "thank you, Brethren" for your gracious response to this Growth Partners call.

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*Henry Bates is pastor and Fred Hammond is moderator of the Wayne Heights Brethren Church of Waynesboro, Pa.*

*The new addition to the Wayne Heights church is shown at the left of this photo by Sid Miller.*







## Growing Up--Growing Old

Young people and older adults have much in common.

IN spite of great variations in upbringing and present life situation, a special relationship often exists between the young and the old. Understanding and trust is developed and affection is freely expressed. While communication difficulties sometimes exist, the "generation gap" seems more a problem of adult-teenager and adult-older adult relationships. Perhaps the many similarities in the social position of the young and old make them natural allies.

Productivity, achievement, material gain, independence, hard work, intellectual capacity, education, and scientific and technological sophistication are qualities which are admired by society. But young and old often find themselves negatively stereotyped with regard to these qualities. Both groups are constantly reminded of their nonproductive role. They lack control over many elements of their lifestyle, have little influence upon decisionmaking apparatus, and exist in a less structured time frame. Both groups also are perceived as being insufficiently educated (this will change as today's middle age population reaches old age), are economically dependent, and are relatively unable to control their income satisfactorily. Both are experiencing a period of transition, role adjustment, status change, and spiritual self-examination and are searching for life value, meaning, and reward.

While young people are future-oriented and have the potential for being accepted into the mainstream of society, older people have limited futurity and are barred from productive roles. Society considers the young attractive, alert, trainable, and worth spending time and money upon. The old are estranged from a community which has no place for them, and are considered to deserve only that amount of time and money necessary to quiet their complaints (see "The Old and the New as Generation Gap Allies" by Richard A.

*adapted by*  
**Beverly Summy**

Kalish in the International Journal of Aging and Human Development, Vol. 4:3, 1973).

What does the religious commitment to a full life mean? How do Brethren ideas of progressivism and individual worth square with the treatment of the aged in our society? How do the negative images affect relationships between the generations? How will today's attitudes affect young people's formulation of their own subsequent roles?

### Youth-age dialogue

Today's living patterns and lifestyle differences rarely bring the young and old in contact with one another. When the opportunity to meet does occur it can be an educational experience for both age groups. Transportation, living arrangements, independence, money, male-female relations, usefulness, and the environment are issues affecting each individual's life. Problems can be aired and contrasting points of view explored.

"To Think . . . To Speak . . . To Be Heard . . . To Make A Difference," a youth conference project sponsored by the National Retired Teachers Association, has helped students to plan and conduct experimental conferences which bring together high school students and retired people. Participants examine issues related to the rights and obligations of older Americans. A specially prepared handbook includes students' suggestions for organizing a conference and choosing topics for discussion. Students are encouraged to develop initiative in the direction  
*(continued on next page)*



**“A special relationship often exists between the young and the old. Perhaps the many similarities in the social position of each make them natural allies.”**

of action and service to the community, as well as an increased recognition of the personal aspects of aging.

This type of intergenerational dialogue could be part of every congregation's programming. Such activities could be fostered through the day school, adult education program, youth groups, WMS, Laymen's Organization, or GAF (Golden Agers Fellowship). A full day conference patterned on the NRTA model would be an excellent cooperative venture for a cluster of churches. Local AARP, Gray Panther chapters, aging agencies, senior centers, nursing homes, and residential retirement communities can assist in inviting a cross section of the community's older population to participate.

### **Sensitivity workshops**

A smaller seminar might be organized to focus on intergenerational communication. Two or three generations could be represented and issues of mutual concern can be explored. In this setting an appropriate focus might be the process of aging: “Aging—Everybody's Doing It”; or “How Old Am I? How Am I Old?” Fantasy activities and exercises which help group members to share their feelings regarding the universality of aging—its process and its problems—could be valuable. The suggested activities are not designed

for a workshop on the problems of the elderly; rather, they should be used in a workshop on the whole process of aging as we experience it at different times in our lives and how it affects our perceptions and stereotypes of ourselves and others.

### **Intergenerational programs**

Visiting in nursing homes or private homes, shopping, gardening, holiday preparation, home-help services, tutoring (reciprocal), community surveys, joint camping, crafts, and religious retreat programs are areas in which young and old can extend their help to one another. “Sensitizing workshops” open the door to opportunities for this type of congregational intergenerational programming.

A new and excellent guide has been published by the National Institute of Senior Centers to provide assistance in preparing youth volunteers to work effectively in multi-age activities. The first section gives a brief description of several programs, and the second, a guide for implementing a program. Section Three, “Geriatric Sensory Training for Teenagers,” is a training outline to provide you with the tools and philosophy needed to train volunteers, family, or staff. Training techniques include role play, films and discussion, and word value exercises. Guidance is given to the leader in selecting potential volunteers and in directing the discussions which will be generated by the training experiences.

Psychiatrists have noted that negative images of the elderly and attitudes which deny or reject our own aging contribute to, or even produce, some of the “needs” or problems of older people. We have suddenly found ourselves living in a four generation world and society is not quite prepared for this. Better communication can alter our understanding of our own experience and competence and of the continuum of age-related human experience. Interchange between the young and the old can be an important factor in raising the quality of life of the elderly.

Adapted from the March 1976 issue of Synagogue Aging.

### **For Further Study**

**Handbook: 1975-76 Youth Conference on Older Americans.** NRTA/AARP, Pride in America Committee, 1909 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20049; single copy free.

**Aging and Awareness,** Unitarian Universalist Association, Committee on Aging, 25 Beacon St., Boston, Massachusetts 02108; \$2.00.

**A Guide to Intergenerational Programming,** National Institute of Senior Centers, National Council on the Aging, Inc., 1828 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; \$3.00.





## Juicy Tomato Award

Good nutrition, good health, and household safety will help senior citizens enjoy a longer life. Here are ways your church can help make this possible.

The annual award of the Center for Science in the Public Interest is given to an individual or organization making "a unique contribution toward improving the quality of the American diet." A 76-year-old retired landscaper, the recipient of this year's award, has been instrumental in setting up more than 200 food buying clubs in the Chicago area through his Self-Help Action Center.

Good nutrition and good health are inextricably linked at every age. Poor diet for an older person is less often a matter of lack of knowledge than a factor of economics, loneliness, and reduced mobility. If the supermarket cannot be reached in bad weather, arthritis makes bundles too heavy to carry, recent illness leaves one too weak to stand at the stove and cook, or failing vision causes dangerous hot spills or the fear of causing fires, many older people will resort to a diet of tea and toast. What can be done to help?

**Food buying co-ops** save money for everyone in the congregation. Able retirees may organize a project, and young people might volunteer to sort and bag orders or help to deliver the groceries.

**Traveling meals project.** The city or some other agency may be running a regular five day a week "meals-on-wheels" program. What happens on Saturday and Sunday? Who responds to an older person who is temporarily ill or recovering from surgery? A small scale traveling meals project for short term or episodic need could assist these people. A source of referrals would be your local nursing home. They may know of many people who have been approved for placement and are waiting for an available room. Their need for assistance is not reduced by inscription on a waiting list. Also, Council on Aging agencies and other similar groups could be a source of information.

**All-male chef's school.** Many married men pride themselves on not knowing how to boil an egg. How do they fare if their wives should become ill or they should be widowed? An all-male chef's school can help widowed men to remain independent, give retired men experience in planning a varied diet and choosing quality foods for good health, and may turn the men's club or laymen's group into a gourmet school. Courses for men can teach nutrition, basic cooking skills, recipe terminology, safety, and menu planning.

**Food stamps.** Many older people are eligible for food stamps and do not know it. Volunteers could mount a community education program explaining eligibility requirements to older inquirers. A survey of the community to identify older people who are not in regular touch with government agencies and may not be aware of this source of federal assistance would be a worthwhile congregational project.

**Large print recipes.** "Look 'n Cook," a collection of large print recipes, was prepared by an author with glaucoma and has a special section of recipes for diabetics, many of whom suffer vision loss. Other large-type recipe books contain hints on kitchen organization and food handling. Would large print recipe cards reach a new audience? (Look 'n Cook, P.O. Box A, Willmar, Minn. 56201; \$5.50 postpaid.)

### Try These Programs

An interesting variation on the Telephone Reassurance program is the use of "phone families." One of a group of four older members calls the other three once a day for a week on an alternate basis.

A unique approach to helping older people remain in their own homes seeks to encourage isolated older folks to take a young roomer into their homes. Potential roomers are recruited from area universities and hospital staffs and are screened by the minister or other benevolent care groups before placement. Workshop and orientation sessions instruct volunteers who handle all the arrangements and call at the home once a week following placement. This arrangement provides income, companionship, and mutual service; it has been well received in the pilot project area of Washington, D.C.



# UPDATE

news from the Brethren Church  
and the Evangelical Press Association

## Milledgeville adds WCCI to radio network

**Milledgeville, Ill.**—Effective September 22, three radio stations are carrying "Brethren Moments," which is produced by the Milledgeville Brethren Church.

WCCI in Savanna, Illinois, is the newest station. Station personnel offered air time free of charge each Wednesday evening following network news.

"Brethren Moments" is produced in the church in a production room designed specifically for this radio ministry. The program features music by Christian recording artists and thoughts by Milledgeville pastor, Jim Black.

Pastor Black reports that "the area is now saturated with the ministry of the Brethren, but we are praying for at least two more stations to be added in the near future."

Other stations carrying "Brethren Moments" are KSAY in Clinton, Iowa/Fulton, Illinois, and WSDR in Sterling/Rock Falls, Illinois.



## Membership Growth

Bradenton: 4 by baptism, 2 by letter

Brighton Chapel: 3 by baptism

Loree: 8 by baptism, 3 by letter

North Manchester: 5 by baptism, 3 by letter

Sarasota: 6 by baptism

Tiosa: 12 by baptism

Vinco: 5 by baptism

## Calendar of Events

**November 5-6**—Church Growth Seminar One, North Liberty, Ind., cluster.

**November 7-12**—Revival meetings, nightly at 7:30, First Brethren Church, West Alexandria, Ohio. Albert Curtright, evangelist; Herbert Gilmer, pastor.

**November 8-9**—Central Council, Ashland, Ohio.

**November 10**—Deadline for Work and Worship Tour II reservations (send to Jim Payne).

**November 14**—50th Anniversary Celebration, Second Brethren Church, Johnstown, Pa. Charles Munson, speaker; Harold Walton, pastor (see details in related news account).

**November 19-20**—Church Growth Seminar One, Tiosa, Ind.

**February 5-25**—Work and Worship Tour II to Colombia, Argentina, and Panama.

## Adds deacons, new members on same day

**Roanoke, Ind.**—The First Brethren Church here celebrated a joyous occasion on August 29 as they ordained two deacons and deaconesses and baptized three new members.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Holmes were set aside to the office of deacon and deaconess during the 10:30 worship hour. Rev. Arthur Tinkel of Wabash brought the message and assisted in the service of ordination.

At 2:30 that afternoon three new members were baptized at a service held in the Huntington church. The newly ordained deacons and deaconesses assisted Pastor Ralph Gibson in the service. Those baptized were received into membership the following Sunday.

## 50 years on Bond Street . . .

**Johnstown, Pa.**—Second Brethren Church will observe the 50th anniversary of the dedication of its present building on November 14.

Charles Munson, professor at Ashland Theological Seminary and a former member of the congregation, will speak at the anniversary services at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. that day.

A tureen dinner will be held following the morning services.

Ruth Munson Ely, who has served as church secretary for a number of years, has compiled a history of the church.

## . . . and 7 on Walcrest Drive

**Mansfield, Ohio**—The Walcrest Brethren Church celebrated its seventh anniversary in its present location during the month of October. Special programs were planned for each Sunday of the month.

Ron Waters, managing editor of the Brethren Evangelist, spoke on October 3. Gerald Barr, new pastor of the County Line Brethren Church, addressed the congregation on October 10. Rev. Barr grew up in the Mansfield church.

Spencer Gentle, pastor of the Goshen, Indiana, First Brethren Church, was scheduled to speak on October 17. Rev. Gentle was pastor of the Mansfield church when it relocated on Walcrest Drive. During the evening service he was to present slides of a recent trip to Israel.

Other programs planned were a worship service directed by Alpha Theta, a Christian service organization from Ashland College; an evening service by the youth of the church; and a message by Dr. Frederick Burkey, Director of Christian Education of the Brethren Church.





*Smith Rose (right) led this session at the Fort Wayne Regional Pastors' Consultation. A total of 72 pastors and seminary students participated in the sharing sessions.*

## Pastors' Consultations Held

**Ashland, Ohio**—The second series of Regional Pastors' Consultations was concluded during the month of September, according to Smith Rose, executive secretary of the Central Council.

The consultations were initiated in 1975 as a means for giving Brethren pastors, seminary students, and denominational executives an opportunity for sharing mutual concerns and examining selected issues facing the church in depth. During the overnight gatherings, expectations, concerns, and problems are shared more freely and in more detail than can be given in brief district and General Conference reports.

This year 72 men, including 5 seminary students, participated in the 5 consultations. Denominational concerns were represented by Arden Gilmer, Virgil Ingraham, Dorman Ronk, Smith Rose, and John Rowsey. (Fred Burkey was unable to participate due to surgery in early September.) Expenses were shared by the pastors, participating boards, and the Central Council.

The consultations were held at Bedford, Pa.; Columbus, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Kansas City, Mo.; and Los Angeles, Calif.

Discussion and responses were given in several areas, including: charismatics, the gifts of the Spirit, and speaking in tongues; the significance of the current church growth emphasis and the tension of spiritual and numerical growth; ministerial recruitment, as needed in view of the intention of the church to grow; and reorganization, especially as it relates to the work of the national boards and the necessity for providing flexibility to meet changing needs and to be more effective.

Although it was not a planned topic for discussion, the baptismal question surfaced across the country. "There was a rather general concern among the pastors that the baptismal issue had not been really settled by the Conference vote,

since such a strong majority of our people voted in favor of the memorial," Rev. Rose reported.

The responses, suggestions, and concerns were varied. "Preliminary examination . . . shows that while there was a similarity of response, each regional presented a variation of ideas which are rich in content and which tend to complete the picture." A summary report is being prepared and will be distributed to participants so they can get a more complete picture of responses across the country.

Rev. Rose was quite pleased with the tenor of the meetings. "Brethren pastors are making a serious attempt to understand and deal with the changing situations which they face and are seeking help and guidance to function in a more constructive manner. They have been very helpful in their support and sharing in the denominational ministry through the boards, as well.

Participants are now completing an evaluative questionnaire which should provide further usable suggestions and insights. "An examination of preliminary replies indicates that serious thought is being given in these evaluations. It can be said that there is a great concern among our pastors for the work and growth of the Brethren Church as a means of helping to fulfill our purpose of winning and discipling people for Christ."

The evaluations also indicate a strong interest in another series of regionals in 1977.

A more personal part of the consultations centered around the role of the men as pastors-teachers, as described in Ephesians 4:11-13, with the goal of preparing the saints for ministry and building up the body of Christ.

Two motivational films, "You Pack Your Own Chute" and "You Can Surpass Yourself," were shown to challenge and encourage participants to set goals and to seek to reach their full potential in the service of their Lord and Savior.



## Pastoral News

**Gerald Barr**, from Mexico, Ind., to County Line church (Lakeville, Ind., Oct. 24.

**Craig Brown**, 1976 Seminary graduate to St. Charles City work, Waldorf, Md. First worship service was to be held Oct. 17.

**David Cooksey**, from Kokomo, Ind., to Lanark, Ill., early October.

**Paul Richey**, from Cameron, W. Va., to Riverside Christian Training School, Lost Creek, Ky., in December.

## Worship at AC -- what is it?

You mean Ashland College students actually turn out for a worship experience? That's right . . . about 50 or so every Sunday evening at 9:00. We believe they come because they are able to deeply reflect on the qualities and goodness of God, as well as respond to his goodness by song, prayer, meditation, or testimony. Reflection and response are what worship at AC is all about.

During our one hour gathering on Sunday night our fellowship is reflecting upon God's Word as found in John's Gospel. Every Sunday about ten verses are "brought to life" by word, song, and example so the body can fully receive the message. One Sunday we had a slide presentation centered around John 1:1-14 showing how God has entered Ashland as well as the world. Another Sunday we had a celebration: punch, homemade bread, and banners. Why? because we are "King's kids" and have much to look forward to. Jesus said in John 1:50 "You shall see greater things. . . ." God has given us much to be grateful for.

Reflection—God's word is meant to be reflected upon. Therefore students are given time for thought and prayer. Many times the reflection is guided by song or prayer in small groups. We believe this helps each one take the worship experience home with them.

Worship at AC—What is it? It is reflection upon God and His Word, and a personal response which can direct our hearts toward growth and depth in Christ.

—Don Snell, Mike Gleason  
and Sue Canfield

## Weddings

**Kathleen Houghton** to **Steven McCloughan**, Oct. 2, at Elkhart, Ind., Brethren church. Dale RuLon, pastor, officiating.

**Cheryl Tinkel** to **Randy Kessler**, Sept. 25, at Ft. Wayne, Ind., Meadow Crest Brethren Church. Paul Tinkel, pastor; Arthur Tinkel, pastor, officiating.

**Laura Kelley** to **Mark McInturf**, Sept. 11, at Elkhart, Ind., Brethren church. Dale RuLon, pastor, officiating.

**Tammy Manning** to **Larry Smith**, Sept. 4, at Bryan, Ohio, Brethren church. Marlin McCann, pastor, officiating.

**Kathy Kerr** to **Ronald Clark**, Aug. 28, at Bryan, Ohio, garden wedding at home of bride. Rev. Roth, pastor, officiating.

**Beverly Booher** to **Michael Rice**, Aug. 7, at North Manchester, Ind., Brethren church. Woodrow Immel, pastor, officiating.

**Jenny Lindower** to **James Berkshire**, Aug. 7, at Dayton, Ohio, Hillcrest Brethren Church. John Brownsberger, pastor; W. Clayton Berkshire, pastor, officiating.

## Goldenaires

**Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Taylor**, 52nd, June 28. Members of Mishawaka, Ind., Brethren church.

**Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Luty**, 60th, May 5. Attended Rochester, Ind., Tiosa Brethren Church for many years.

## In Memory

**Rev. Clarence Hesketh**, 64, Oct. 2. Pastor of the Valley Brethren Church. Funeral services by Bill Walk; memorial services by Bill Walk and Tom Kidder. (Memorial tribute will appear in the next issue.)

**Wayne K. Briner**, 59, Sept. 24. Member of North Manchester, Ind., Brethren church. Services by Neil Dawson, pastor.

**Katherine Crumlick**, 79, Sept. 25. Member of Ashland, Ohio, Park Street Brethren church. Services by Eugene Beekley, pastor.

**Mrs. Dorothy Schlegel**, 51, Sept. 21. Member of Waynesboro, Pa., Wayne Heights Brethren Church for 22 years. Services by Henry Bates, pastor.

**Homer Robbins**, 80, Sept. 20. Member of Elkhart, Ind., Brethren church. Services by Wesley Johnson, pastor.

**Edward Kerch**, 79, Sept. 14. Attended Roanoke, Ind., Brethren church. Services by Ralph Gibson, pastor.

**Arthur Luty**, 80, June 9. Attended Rochester, Ind., Tiosa Brethren Church for many years. Services by John Shultz, pastor.

"Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example."

—Mark Twain



# "I found it!"

## Campus Crusade prepares to launch nationwide evangelism saturation campaign.

The United States is about to see the unleashing of what Peter Wagner calls "the most significant innovation in American evangelism since the Great Awakening."

In over 200 major metropolitan areas and thousands of smaller communities, 5 million Christians from 50,000 churches are preparing to share their faith and disciple new believers as part of Here's Life, America.

Sponsored and directed by Campus Crusade for Christ, Here's Life has as its goal to saturate the United States (and eventually the world) "with the claims of Christ." The long-range purpose of the movement is "to serve as a catalyst to build movements of evangelism and discipleship in thousands of local churches."

An integral part of the Here's Life movement in each metropolitan area is a three to four week media campaign. During the first week of the campaign, "I Found It!" slogans will be displayed throughout the area on bumper stickers, billboards, newspaper ads, television and radio spots, and lapel pins. The "reveal" part of the campaign begins as people begin to ask "What has been found?" Added to the ads are the words "You can find it too: new life in Jesus Christ," followed by a telephone number.

Prior to the media campaign, scores of workers will have been trained to answer telephones, to arrange appointments with those who respond, to contact residents in specific blocks from neighborhood phone centers, and to lead follow-up Bible studies as a means to disciple new believers in their faith. Coordinated materials have also been designed to assist workers in completing their tasks with ease and confidence.

Here's Life was field tested over a year ago in Atlanta, Georgia. As a result, more than a dozen major changes were made in the program (including the name—workers found that "Agape, Atlanta" simply did not communicate to local residents). Then the revised program was conducted in 20 cities during the spring of 1976. Encouraged by the results, Crusade decided to proceed with its plans to saturate America after the November 2 election.

One of the major obstacles to such a program was the fact that so many Christians had not been effectively disciplined by their local churches. So, working with Michigan State University, Crusade designed a unique multimedia communications package called Mediated Training.

The Mediated Training package uses slides, 16 millimeter film, cassettes, and training manuals

to instruct potential workers in principles of evangelism and discipleship. The package will continue to be made available to local churches interested in helping their members grow in their commitment and Christian life.

The Here's Life strategy is a result of the continuing dream of Campus Crusade president and founder Bill Bright to see the world evangelized "in our generation." Bright says, "For the past 25 years I have been actively involved in worldwide evangelism. . . . But what God is doing today is 100 times—yes, 1,000 times—greater than anything I have ever seen or read about in the almost 2,000-year-old history of the church."

Dr. Bright is praying for 25 million decisions in the United States this year. If his prayer is answered, one of his dreams could easily come true: "That, as we come to the end of our bicentennial, we as a nation will experience a new birth of faith and freedom."

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*This report is based on information gleaned from Here's Life, America promotional materials distributed by Campus Crusade for Christ. See page 34 for an editorial commentary written by Managing Editor Ron Waters.*

### How did you find it?

The Brethren Evangelist wants to know what happened in your community and your church as a result of Here's Life, America.

We are planning a special feature for the February issue on how Brethren churches were involved, either in the November blitz or in one of the earlier campaigns. And we want to hear from your church.

Further instructions were sent with the mid-October issues of Pastor's Paragraphs and Moderator's Minutes.

Our deadline is December 15, so keep that date in mind. And be sure to share your personal experience with your pastor or news agent for possible inclusion in the February issue.





## 1977 Summer Crusader Program is

# On the Drawing Board

by Fred Burkey

IT hardly seems possible but the time has come to plan for the 1977 Summer Crusader/Internship programs. The eighth annual edition of this facet of the youth ministry will have a new look—some changes, some additions, some deletions.

In keeping with the objectives of these programs, a variety of activities and services will be offered to the churches and institutions of the denomination. All will be designed to:

1. Encourage Brethren to examine themselves and identify their spiritual gifts.
2. Generate a new and deeper enthusiasm for and commitment to the gospel and the ministry of the Brethren Church, on the part of both youth and adults.
3. Generate positive attitudes toward the church and Christian service.
4. Promote a unity and fellowship among Brethren people.
5. Provide training and opportunities for youth to use their gifts in real-life situations in their own denominational churches.
6. Recruit gifted youth for leadership and

ministry in the Brethren Church in both lay and professional capacities.

During the summer of 1977 we plan to field four Crusader teams which will provide the services outlined here. While detailed planning will come later, the accompanying descriptions are offered to guide prospective Crusader applicants and to stimulate the thinking of churches which may wish to make use of their services.

Applicants for Summer Crusader or Internship service should carefully consider the area in which their gifts may best be used and indicate their preferences. As always, top priority will be given to applicants of college age who are considering a career of Christian service. Applications will be received for Crusader positions from December 1, 1976 through January 31, 1977. Contact the office of the Board of Christian Education for the necessary application forms.

Pastors or other church representatives interested in more information on one of the proposed teams should contact me soon, indicating their specific needs.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in applying for Crusader or Intern service. Please send application forms and policy statements.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am interested in more information on the \_\_\_\_\_  
Crusader team or a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ Intern, and how these  
young people might be able to serve our church.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and mail this form (or send a facsimile) to: **1977 Crusaders/Interns, 524 College Ave., Ashland, OH 44805.**



# 1977 Crusader Prospectus

## Crusader Team Ministries

### Instructional

**Services Available:** Primarily teaching in vacation Bible schools, district camps, and day camps. Secondarily, camp counseling, limited community survey, and worship services.

**Number of Teams:** Two.

**Personnel:** Four persons per team.

**Length of Service:** One or two weeks per location.

**Skills:** Applicant should have experience as teachers, and be able to share their Christian experience effectively.

### Survey

**Services Available:** The team will be trained to do community survey work along with local church volunteers. The surveys used will be of two types: lifestyle surveys and community religious surveys. The former will be used in new or recently developed communities; the latter in established communities.

**Purpose:** To assist the local church in securing reliable information about their communities for purposes of decisionmaking and to identify prospects for evangelization.

**Number of Teams:** One.

**Personnel:** Four persons.

**Length of Service:** One or two weeks per location.

**Skills:** Applicants should be able to meet people well, and be able to share their Christian experience effectively.

### Musical/Dramatic

**Services Available:** This team will be equipped to present one or more current musical programs for presentation in the church and/or the community. It will also integrate one or more dramatic presentations into its repertoire. Program activities will be designed to involve interested local youth and adults in the development of a concluding program of worship.

**Purpose:** To present the gospel message through the media of music and drama and to involve local people in that presentation.

**Number of Teams:** One.

**Personnel:** Eight persons; four men and four women.

**Length of Service:** One week per location.

**Skills:** Applicants must have skill and experience in either music or drama, and be able to share their Christian experience effectively.

## Internship Ministries

### Pastoral

Will be arranged for mature pastoral prospects of college or seminary age. Efforts will be made to match the Intern with the best possible pastor/church teaching situation.

**Purpose:** To provide field experience to pastoral prospects and students under the direction of an experienced pastor in the midst of a vibrant congregation.

*(continued on next page)*



# Internship Ministries (cont.)

## Foreign Missions

**Services Available:** A missionary internship program is being planned for Colombia, South America. This team will be working with special evangelistic services.

**Purpose:** To acquaint prospective missionary and ministerial candidates with the work of foreign missions.

**Personnel:** Four persons will be specially selected—two men and two women.

**Qualifications:**

1. Indication of commitment to full-time Christian service.
2. Christian and emotional maturity.
3. Musical ability.
4. At least a reading knowledge of Spanish.
5. Previous Christian service.

**Length of Service:** Approximately six weeks after orientation.

## Institutional

Positions may be arranged in Brethren-operated nursing homes for qualified persons considering this area of ministry. Applicants should be capable of relating to older people and have some experience in this type of ministry.

## National Bible Week Proclaimed

Washington, D.C. (EP News)—President Ford has encouraged all Americans to observe the annual National Bible Week, November 21-28 this year, "to renew our commitment to the principles that are manifested in the Scriptures that have become 'Freedom's Holy Light.'"

## BEFORE YOU MOVE

... please let us know.

### 1. Give old address:

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Fill in new address below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date new address in effect \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Mail this form to:

Address Correction  
Brethren Publishing Company  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, OH 44805

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) John D. Rowsey, Editor



## Winding Waters Buys Tractor

by Phil Lersch

Through the World Relief Commission, the Winding Waters Brethren Church (Elkhart, Indiana) joined with several other churches to purchase a special tractor for Kenya.

Winding Waters contributed \$1,200 last spring for this tractor, which was delivered to the Africa Inland Missions work in Loglogo, Kenya.

Many operations and projects have been accomplished already with this much-needed vehicle and accompanying equipment:

1. **Well Digging**—for drinking, watering animals, and irrigation. First 70 hours of operation saved more than 400 man-hours. Eliminated fear of accidents when drilling wells manually. Dug two 300-foot wells, one 400-feet, and several small ones. With back hoe attachment, dug large trough for watering cattle.

2. **Construction of Dispensary and Meeting-house.** Tractor helped with foundation and building of both buildings. Meetinghouse will serve as place of regular worship for believers.

3. **Trial Agricultural Scheme.** Eighteen acres were plowed and a variety of seeds, said to be drought resistant, were planted. Too early for results yet.

4. **Building of Dam.** Sixteen test holes were drilled at Larabasi. Refuge for wild game (lions, giraffes, gazelles, and elephants). Villagers were hauling water 20 miles. While digging test holes, productive spring was struck providing water for villagers in homes.

5. **Air Strips Planned**—four now on drawing



WRC Photo

*The Winding Waters church joined others in providing the funds for the purchase of this tractor. It is used for farming and construction in Kenya.*

### Free Films

These excellent 16-millimeter, full color, sound World Relief films are available at no cost for your special programs anytime during the year. Order directly from the World Relief Commission (Box 44, Valley Forge, Pa. 19481).

"Bangladesh—Darkness Into Light"  
27 minutes

"Africa—Dry Edge of Disaster"  
28 minutes

"Honduras—Aftermath of Hurricane Fifi"  
27 minutes

board. At centers where small churches are. Small farming ventures in these centers are teaching farming techniques.

6. **Others.** Tractor used for loading, lifting, dozing, digging trenches and ditches, and (in time of drought and famine) will bring much relief.

We give our commendation for the interest and giving of the Winding Waters Brethren for such a timely project that is now accomplishing so much through World Relief in Kenya.

### Aid to Quake Victims

Soon after the earthquake and tidal wave hit the Philippines in August, we Brethren were there to help through the World Relief Commission.

Two missionary organizations, working in the Mindanao area of the Philippines, received \$15,000 each from WRC to assist in their initial crisis relief efforts. Christian and Missionary Alliance and Far East Broadcasting Company reported massive property damage and the probable loss of life of national Christian workers and church members.

This worst earthquake in Philippine history resulted in a 30-foot tidal wave that crashed over the area shortly after midnight on August 16, catching the people by surprise and washing many out to sea. Cities and villages were leveled. Early estimates were that 5,000 perished, 2,000 were missing, and 30,000 are homeless.

It is WRC's disaster-relief policy to allocate funds to evangelical groups in the affected area who can give assistance during the first crucial days and lessen the trauma of disaster.



## Body Building

The Apostle Paul wrote about the "building up of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12). In today's terminology Paul was speaking about church growth. The question is, "In what way is the body of Christ to be built up?" In what ways is the church to grow?

Alan R. Tippett, in his book **Church Growth and the Word of God**, tells us that a healthy church will grow in three ways: in quantity, in quality, and in organization. Growth in quantity means numerical growth. Growth in quality refers to spiritual growth. Organizational growth refers to structural flexibility and adjustment to minister effectively and efficiently as circumstances change and new opportunities arise.

Knowing these three areas of growth is extremely beneficial to the church that really wants to do its best for the Lord. However, being able to discern these three areas is not enough. We must also be aware of the relationship of these areas to one another. There is an equilibrium between them, and healthy genuine growth results only when this equilibrium is maintained.

For instance, some churches destroy the balance between two of the three areas of growth by saying, "We're after quality, not quantity." They take pride in saying, "We may not be growing in numbers, but we're growing spiritually." This kind of attitude leads to Pharaseeism, perfectionism, and self-satisfaction. Generally this statement is offered defensively by a dying congregation attempting to cover up its lack of numerical growth. It's one of the trickiest "non-growth" excuses a church can give because it sounds so "spiritual." But, a high-quality church will be a witnessing church. When a church witnesses, people are reached for Christ. As a result, the church cannot help but grow numerically as newly reached people begin to attend the services and become responsible members of the church.

Spiritual growth of the members of the church is absolutely necessary. Christians should show continuous spiritual development as they study the Bible and apply it to their daily lives, grow in their prayer lives, fellowship together, worship together, grow in their love for each other, and witness for Christ more and more in the world. If a church is growing numerically but not spiritually, the result is a church full of superficial and immature Christians. This kind of church is getting fatter but is not getting better. Such a church will have a large turnover in people. People may go out the "back door" of this church as fast as they come in the front door. The list of inactive members will grow unless the church begins to nurture and teach those who make initial decisions for Christ. So we're back to the principle of equilibrium again. New people who

are added to the church (numerical growth) must also be taught to observe all that Christ commanded (spiritual growth).

Acts 2:41-47 reveals that the first church was concerned about numerical growth. Verse 41 records that 3,000 were added to the church. Verse 47 talks about "the Lord adding to their **number**" (NASB). The first church was also concerned about spiritual growth—they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (Bible study), to fellowship, to the breaking of bread (worship), to prayer, and to active concern for each other's welfare (vv. 42, 44, 45).

Vergil Gerber, in his **Manual for Evangelism/Church Growth**, comments: "In the New Testament evangelistic effectiveness is a quality that is constantly measured in quantitative terms. Precise figures are given regarding the number of professions of faith (quantity). These are always based upon those who follow on, are baptized and continue in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (quality). Just as faith without works is dead, so spiritual growth in the New Testament is frequently expressed in terms of quantities" (pp. 15-16). Gerber also points out the relationship between quality and quantity as he writes with regard to Jesus' parable of the soils (Matt. 13:1-23): "Soil is considered high **quality** because of its ability to produce a high **quantity** of fruit. Quality is the measurement of quantity, and quantity a measurement of quality" (p. 25).

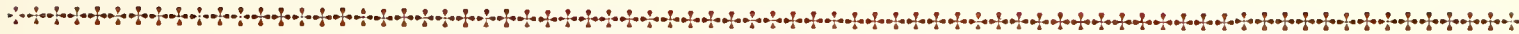
Quality (spiritual growth) and quantity (numerical growth) are two aspects of the same reality. If your church really desires to build up the body of Christ, you must not emphasize one to the exclusion of the other. You must give equal emphasis to both at the same time. Both evangelism and edification must receive equal attention. Actually, the right kind of edification produces evangelism.

Dorothy Rader, writing in the May 1976 issue of Church Growth Bulletin, has perhaps summed up the interrelationship best: "Perfecting Christians involves more than sitting under good Bible teaching. Good Bible teaching produces quality, but it is only Christ-like quality when it causes men to go out in faith and produce fruit for the Kingdom of God. What more natural and spiritual step can one take than to bring others to Christ? Winning souls for Christ keeps the devil away . . . fulfilling the Great Commission develops a spiritual Christian. He knows what victorious Christian living means. Faith and prayer increase. He depends on the power of the Spirit of God, and uses the gifts the Spirit has given him. He is perfected to Christ-like quality as a church becomes filled with 'quality Christians.'"



# auxiliary programs for december

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## sisterhood

### General Secretary's Notes

# Epistle of Nancy

## to the Sisterhoods

From Nancy, who by the will of God was called to be your General Secretary, and your other officers working together, your faithful servants for Jesus Christ and the Sisterhood of Mary and Martha of the Brethren Church.

To all the girls interested or involved in local Sisterhood organizations, together with those concerned adults who take the time to read this.

"May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

"Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!"

**Give thanks!** I continually thank the Lord for each of you and for all the faithful SMM groups across our country. I pray that you will never falter in your faith and your working for the Lord, for He will keep you going if you keep trusting in Him, seeking His will daily, and loving one another.

What an exciting time of the year—Thanksgiving! We now have a good reason to continually praise and thank the Lord for all His gifts to us. (As if we needed one!) I enjoy being happy and thanking God for all He gives. It's so much more fun than worrying and complaining about what He hasn't given us! I hope you will learn more about enjoying Thanksgiving as this month progresses.

Remember our new suggestion from Conference about writing to specifically assigned missionary families? Well, this is one way we can thank God for the service of our missionaries. For by writing to them, we give glory to God. "For I was hungry and you gave me food . . ." I will add, "I was far away from home and you wrote letters to me." "As you did it to one of the least of these

my brethren, you did it to me [Jesus]" (Matthew 12:35, 40). Any form of love we show to others is love shown to Jesus.

I really want to encourage you to write to your group's family. (The name and address of the one assigned to you was included in the survey and other pages I sent to each church. It is on the same page as the officers' addresses. If you don't have it, let me know.) The Bible says in Proverbs 25:25 (Berkeley), "As cold waters to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country."

It may take a few months to receive a reply, but keep writing each month. They may not get your letters for a few weeks anyway. Be patient with them, for they surely will want to keep hearing from you. They have a great need to keep in touch with fellow Christians in the States, and the groups writing to each family will be a great comfort to them. The missionary children will especially enjoy mail from other youth their own age, instead of the usual adult letters.

I suggest that you use one of the ways I suggested in last month's article for writing to your SMM pen-group to also write to your missionary family: choose one girl to write for the group, take turns writing, or each of you write a little each time. Use the way you think would be best for your group.

You may be thinking that you don't know what to say when you do write to them. I will share the points in a pamphlet called "How to Write Letters to Your Missionaries" to give you some ideas:

- 1. **Take a personal interest.** Get to know the family and learn of their work. Share items of

(continued on page 31)



prepared by  
Romaine Flora

## God Gave

God so loved the **world** that He gave His only Son that man might live. The Son came into the world as a baby, but His birth was different because He had no earthly father. He grew, as any normal child would grow, into manhood and lived an unusual life; He did God's will, not His own. The religious leaders of the day wanted Him out of the way, so they persuaded the Roman officials to kill Him by execution on a cross. He was buried and arose from the grave on the third day and lived among His followers for a short period of time. While Jesus and His disciples were on the Mount of Olives He was taken up into the clouds, and the disciples heard a voice telling them that He would come back some day.

In order to bring Jesus into the world God chose a young woman of Nazareth named Mary to be His mother. Mary was surely a lovely young woman, perhaps 15 or 16 years old. God must have looked a long time before He chose Mary, because Jesus was to save all the people who would come to Him by faith. But Mary was no super-human girl; she was just a simple, lovely, obedient young woman who was willing to be the quiet human mother of Jesus, despite all the ridicule and slander that would come upon her.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that about the time for the birth of the baby the Roman governor

said the people must go to their hometowns to register for taxation. Mary and Joseph, who was her husband now, started for Bethlehem because that was Joseph's hometown. It is about 75 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, and the roads were very stony and rough. Perhaps Mary rode a donkey, or maybe they walked all the way. Can't you hear Mary ask, "How much farther to Bethlehem, Joseph?" What a trip that must have been! You know the rest of the story from Luke's Gospel.

My husband and I spent one Christmas eve in Bethlehem. In the afternoon people and tourists from all parts of the world came to the little town. It was really "wall to wall" people. There was a religious procession of church dignitaries in their beautiful, colored robes: choir boys in scarlet, deacons in green, and the bishop in white with a scarlet cap on his head.

Late in the afternoon we walked about two miles out of town to what is called "Shepherd's Field." It is a place where there is a large cave like the ones you can see over in that land where shepherds keep their sheep at night. People had gathered at this cave for a Christmas eve service. There was an old pump organ played by a blind lady. The choir was blind girls from a school. The familiar carols were sung, and you could hear English, Arabic, German, French, and other languages, for each sang the carols in his or her native tongue. The story from Luke was read in English and Arabic, and there were prayers in both languages.

As the service progressed, darkness came and with it the stars. The sky seemed so near and was a beautiful dark blue velvet, sprinkled with gold as the stars appeared. This was a very moving experience as we thought of the first Christmas and the angels speaking to the shepherds. They went to see the new-born baby who was to be the Savior of all mankind if they would accept Him, because "God so **loved** that He **gave**."

People are still asking "how far to Bethlehem?" Can you tell them about the Savior who was born there?

### Planning the Meeting

**Christmas Carols**—Use a number of carols in various ways, but save "O Little Town of Bethlehem" for the close of the meeting.

**Scripture**—Have these passages read by different girls: Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1-20, and Matthew 2:1-12.

**Prayer**—Thank God for His great gift to the world, His Son Jesus. Ask Him to use each member of your SMM to show His love to those about you at home and at school.



Read Acts 1 through 6 for the January SMM meeting. Be sure to bring your Bible to the meeting.



"It takes a lot of things to prove you are smart, but only one thing to prove you are ignorant."

—Don Herold



# A Gift of Love

Near Bethlehem, the town where Jesus was born, an eight year old Arab girl lived in an orphanage for Arab children. Her name was Fedwa. She had dark curls and brown eyes that smiled and danced with interest and curiosity. The older girls there learn very young to care for children younger than themselves. So Fedwa had appointed herself as "Little Mother" to the tiny tots. She wiped their noses, straightened their sashes or ties, and spent her playground time amusing them. At mealtime she gathered her little tots and saw that they were clean and on time.

An American lady was working at the orphanage for awhile and she had bought a doll dressed in the costume of that land for her daughter, who was grown but liked unusual dolls. One day Fedwa saw the doll, and the American lady told her it was for her girl in America. Fedwa replied, "I make a doll for your girl," not understanding that "the girl" was a grown lady.

For some time after that Fedwa would say to the American lady, "I'm going to 'Merica with you." The lady asked one of the Arab teachers to explain to Fedwa in Arabic, her language, so she could really understand that it was impossible for the children to come "to 'Merica" and that she would be very lonesome away from her little tots and friends.

Time slipped by and one day Fedwa came to the room of the American lady. She was weeping and the American lady asked, "Fedwa, whatever is the matter?"

"Doll for your girl," Fedwa sobbed, "no dress." And she held out a tiny handmade doll.

How would you make a doll? What does a child use who has no scrap basket to riffle for bits and pieces and no one to help her? Fedwa's doll had a three-inch forked twig for spine and legs. The arms were a smaller straight twig bound to the other with narrow rag strips. A face drawn with a pencil was topped by a lock of hair Fedwa had cut from her own curls and sewn in place.

The doll did have a dress—made from Fedwa's own handkerchief. All the fabric used came from that handkerchief—the one personal possession of this little girl. The binding strips had been arranged to give the body form, and even to make modest panties. The red and blue border made a double hemline, and there was just enough material left to make a belt.

Then why the tears? Fedwa was trying to make an over-dress, something to "put on and take off." She had begged a useless, unmatched sock from the "mending lady" and had unraveled the red and white yarn and tied the pieces every six or eight inches where the yarn was cut at the back seam. With nails that she had begged from the carpenter she was knitting a sort of cloak for her "doll for the girl in 'Merica." Alternating rows

of red and white, she had worked out a lovely pattern, but now she had run out of yarn and there was no matching sock to use to finish her gift. Her heart was broken with disappointment.

The American lady took the tiny swatch of knitting with the nails still holding the stitches and a ten inch length of insufficient yarn dangling. "Fedwa, let me take it just like this. My girl will want it this way to see how you did it. The doll is lovely." With assurances that the "girl in 'Merica" could probably find yarn to finish it, Fedwa was all smiles again. The American lady could hardly hold back her tears as she accepted this gift of love.

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## Epistle of Nancy

(continued from page 29)

interest with them, such as church activities, newspaper clippings, and other special news.

2. **Answer their form letters.** Read the most recent ones in your church or denominational papers and comment on them.

3. **Include a spiritual note.** Share special Scriptures or events that you have experienced. Share prayer requests.

4. **Use a variety of stationery.** Although air mail forms are cheapest to use, attractive stationery will mean something special to the missionaries. Sometimes they can use the decorations for various projects. Picture postcards would also be interesting for them to receive.

There are two main purposes for beginning this project of writing to the missionaries. One is to help them feel remembered and to keep in touch with our church in the States. The other is to get ourselves interested and involved in the families, which will help us pray for them. Remember that when they return here on furlough, you may be able to meet them and become better acquainted with your new friends.

Hebrews 13:16 says, "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you richly as you write and pray for our missionaries. "Strive for perfection, agree with one another, and live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

(Opening and closing paragraphs based on Ephesians 1, I Corinthians 1, and I Corinthians 13.)



# signal lights

written by  
Alberta Holsinger

**Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus**

## *In Jerusalem*

Jesus went to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish religious holidays.

Inside the city near the Sheep Gate was the Bethesda Pool. Around the pool were five covered shelters. Crowds of people who were sick, lame, or blind lay in these shelters.

At certain times the water bubbled. Then the first person to step into the water would be healed.

One man lying there had been crippled for 38 years. Every morning his friends carried him on his mat to the pool. Then they hurried off to their work.

Every morning the man called after them, "Thank you, friends. Perhaps today I'll be healed. Perhaps today you'll not need to carry me home."

The friends were gone. The crippled man was watching the water.

Jesus saw the man. He knew how long he had been sick and how much he wanted to be healed. He walked over to his mat.

"Good morning," Jesus said.

"Good morning," replied the cripple. He didn't know Jesus, but he liked this tall, kind-faced stranger.

"Would you like to get well?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, yes," answered the man. "But I can't. I have no one to help me into the pool when the water bubbles. Someone always gets in ahead of me."

Jesus smiled. "I can help you," He told the man. "Stand up! Roll up your mat and walk!"

While Jesus was speaking the man was healed. He felt his legs and arms become strong again. He stood up. Then he bent over and rolled up his mat. He picked it up and began to walk. Then he ran. "I'm healed," he shouted. "A stranger healed me!"

Jesus went on to the Temple for the holiday service.

—Based on John 5:1-15

**Memory Time:** "I am come in my Father's name." John 5:43a

**Project: Sunday School in Malaysia**

## *Jenny is the One*

Mrs. Ha was very sad and very worried. "What can I do?" she asked Mr. Pilley, a teacher at the school where she cleaned. "My husband is dead and I have six children. It is difficult to make enough money to care for all of them."

Mr. Pilley nodded. "We have been praying for you, Mrs. Ha. We want to help. Our Methodist Children's Home has an opening for one child. Would you want to send one of your children to live there?"

"Oh, yes," replied Mrs. Ha. "That child would be well cared for, but how do I choose which one to send? How do I choose?"

All the way home Mrs. Ha thought about it. "The three little ones are too young to go," she decided. "I need my oldest girl to help care for the little ones while I work. My oldest boy can't go because it's a home for girls. That leaves Jenny."

It would be difficult to send one of her children away, but Mrs. Ha thought about it some more.

"Jenny is five years old—old enough to go to the Children's Home. She will have all the things she needs. Yes, Jenny is the one."

And so five year old Jenny Ha went to live at the Methodist Children's Home and to attend the Methodist elementary and high schools.

It was in school that Jenny met David Loi. They fell in love and planned to get married. But first they both wanted to go to school to better prepare to teach others about the true God.

So while David was in the United States studying at Ashland Theological Seminary, Jenny was in Southampton, England, at General Hospital learning to be a nurse.

When their studies were completed Jenny joined David in Ashland, Ohio, where they were married.

They both asked to become members of the Brethren Church. Then they returned to Malaysia as our missionaries. They are serving the Lord together—preaching, healing, and telling of Jesus, the living Savior.



prepared by  
J. Perry Deeter

## Why Trouble?

by Harold J. Sala

To hear Tom tell it, when he is a smashing success in life, he is entirely responsible. He is a self-made man. But when he is a first-class failure, he was entirely a victim of circumstances; things just didn't break for him. He would have succeeded, but . . .

Well did the writer of Scripture say that the way of a man is upright in his own eyes (Proverbs 12:15). Nevertheless, there are times that in our failure we look for an answer. In times of disaster men turn their eyes toward heaven and say, "God, why?"

Anyone who takes a lingering look at the world around him has to agree that there is much that seems to contradict the fact that God is a God of love and that He rules the world. Perhaps you think of the murder and destruction of the past world wars and think, "How can God really control the affairs of the world?" You may pace the floors of a hospital and think the shining lights and cold stainless steel of an operating table are far from the warmth of a loving God. Perhaps you pick up a newspaper and read of hatred and violence and religious persecution that exist today.

You may never have audibly voiced the question "Why?" But I am sure that you have sometimes questioned God's direction in world events—or in your personal life.

Is it always wrong to ask, "Why?" Is it right to ask God to show you an answer to the problems that have concerned you?

When you are perplexed and frustrated, your attitude determines whether you are right or wrong in asking God for an answer. Over the course of centuries our world has changed a great deal, but the questions and heart cries of men have remained very much the same. Hundreds of years ago a man by the name of Habakkuk asked the question "Why?" He took a good look at his world and was troubled.

Habakkuk thought, "Why does wickedness seem to triumph over righteousness? Is there a lack of justice in God's management of the affairs of the world? How can God be silent in times of disaster? Why doesn't God intervene and do something?"

Could the prophet of old be voicing your thoughts?

Habakkuk went before God with an open and sincere heart. He was not rebellious. He did not blame God for the world's troubles. He sought an honest answer.

Any man who sincerely seeks an answer will

hear from heaven. But God is always silent to the rebellious. They are deaf to God's voice and refuse to hear Him. Scripture tells us the prophet waited before God. Many times we think we are looking to God when we selfishly pour out our complaints, blaming God for our own mistakes and sins.

In time the prophet heard from heaven. No committees were called. No emergency sessions convened from the U.N. Security Council. God spoke! In a moment the prophet knew that God did reign. He realized that God in His own time and way judged the nations of the world. When God spoke, the questions vanished and Habakkuk found the answer.

God told the prophet that faith should be the bridge between our lives and the power of God. "The just shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). Can we understand all that goes on in the world? No! But we can accept God's direction in our lives and trust Him. We must live by faith, not by sight.

God's message to the prophet Habakkuk is His message for you today. How are you living? By faith in Jesus Christ? Or by your own stumbling efforts? If you are honest, you will find the answer. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," said the Savior (John 14:6). Make faith in Him your guideline to living.

From *Guidelines for Successful Living* by Harold J. Sala. Copyright 1972 by Baker Book House Company and used by permission.

### Here's Life, America

(continued from page 34)

leaders who disagree with this approach. There are always those who will cast sour grapes at such projects—especially if the project was successful and they missed out. Approach these Christians with love like that described in John 13:34-35, try to bring them into the fold. Some will come; others will continue to bleat in the darkness while the Shepherd gathers his flock together.

Beware of the dangers—and move forward diligently with the power of the Holy Spirit. God wants His lost children found. Now is perhaps your brightest opportunity.



## Here's Life, America:

## Boon or Bust?

by Ronald W. Waters

**C**OULD Here's Life, America be the long-sought method for evangelizing United States, and eventually the world?

Evidently Campus Crusade for Christ hopes so. During this past year, numerous staff members have been reassigned from other tasks to assist with the implementation of this comprehensive strategy. And certainly millions of dollars have been invested by Crusade in developing the media packages and by local committees in purchasing advertising time and space.

But can it really be done? Undoubtedly, the venture will have the close scrutiny of Christians in the communications and church growth circles.

Debate on whether or not Here's Life will be a boon or a bust for Christianity today is useless at this point in time. Campus Crusade and thousands of local steering committees are on the verge of launching the campaign around the country. The success or failure in each area now depends upon the diligence of the work of the churches and their members who are taking an active role in the outreach.

Which brings me to say that I am thrilled to hear that a number of Brethren churches have taken the lead in their communities and are heavily involved in their local Here's Life campaign. Others are at least passively involved.

My greatest disappointment, however, is that some churches have elected to "sit this one out." This is especially unfortunate, considering that the involved churches will receive many names—perhaps hundreds of them—to follow up. The majority of these will be people who have responded to a radio or television spot, a newspaper add, or a billboard. They will have felt a need strongly enough to place a phone call to an otherwise unidentified number. They will be open to and prime prospects for an invitation to accept Jesus Christ and to join a local church. Certainly, these people will be contacted even though a Brethren church is not participating. But likewise, the potential

for growth of Brethren churches will be dissipated.

Lest I sound greedy for these babes in Christ, let me also add that we have a responsibility, as part of the body of churches in a given community, to assist in nurturing them in their newly found faith. By standing on the outside looking in, we neglect our duty to Christ and His church—and we miss the opportunity of a lifetime.

**B**UT I also have a word of exhortation for you who are actively involved: do not become smug because of what you are doing.

An information sheet distributed in Ashland describing the benefits of Here's Life also presents long-term dangers that may arise because of it. One is that it might become merely a telephone/media campaign; that can be exciting but also can be worthless without personal involvement with other human lives.

A second danger is that interest will die down after the campaign, making it just another grand project with little long-lasting effect.

Danger three is related—that there will be no discipleship or involvement of the new people in the churches. Here's Life, Dallas staffer Dan Lane admitted in a Moody Monthly account ("Campus Crusade blitz hits Dallas"—May 1976, page 8) that "in most of the ninety churches (in Atlanta) that participated, you won't find any of the (10,000) converts." However, the two churches most heavily involved had good growth years because they did not quit when the media campaign ended.

The final danger is one that you will have little control over (unless you are one of the churches not participating). It is: bad reactions and divisive opposition may develop from those churches and their

*(continued on page 33)*

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See page 23 for a news account about Here's Life, America.



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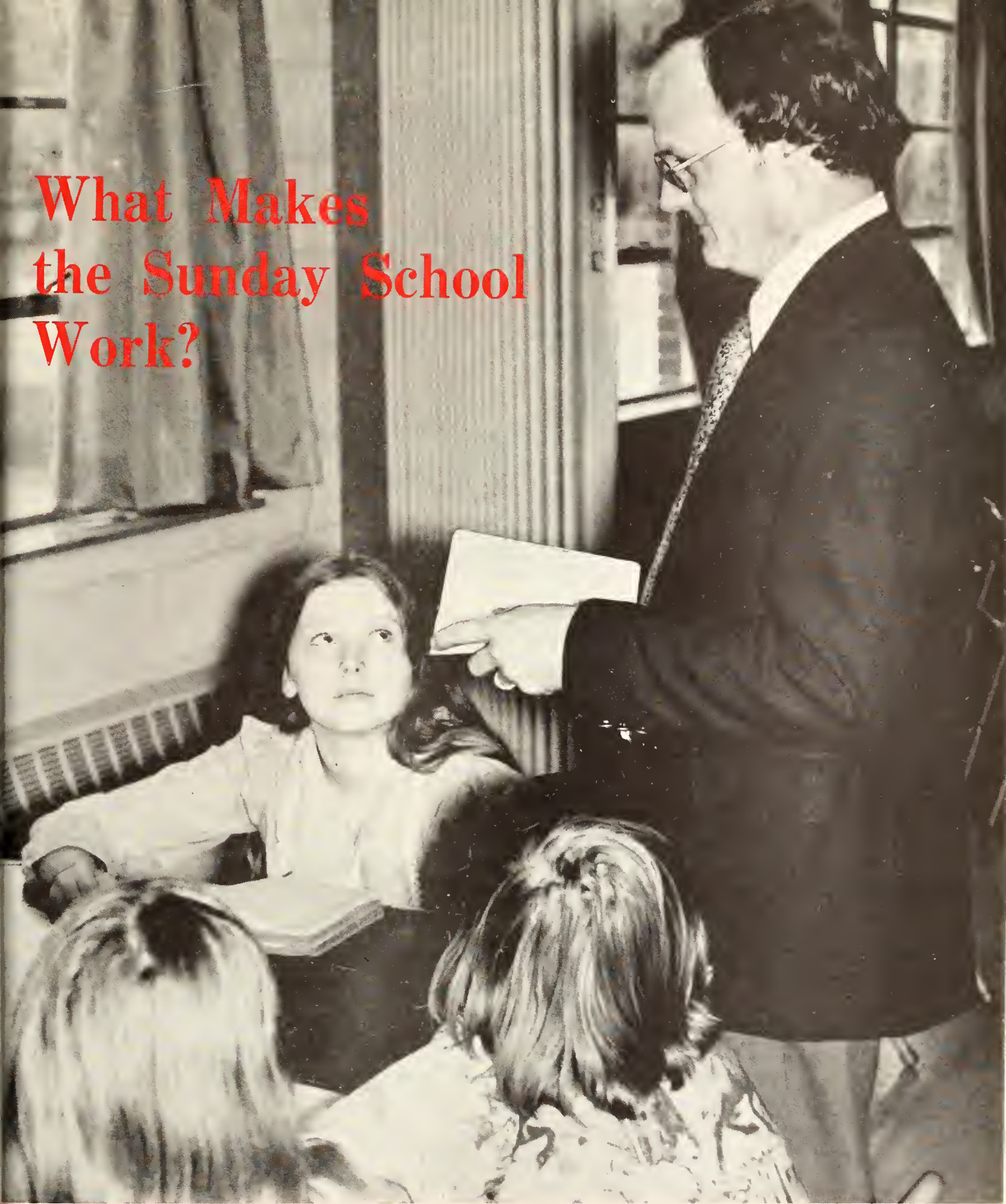


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# What Makes the Sunday School Work?



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*December 1976*





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December 1976

Vol. 98

No. 12

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*Cover photo by John D. Rowsey*

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### editor's notes

We've enjoyed putting this issue together; I hope you find it beneficial.

On page 6, Fred Burkey answers a question of vital importance for Brethren churches—what makes the Sunday School work? (We want to thank Bill Hubler and his junior high class at the Park Street Brethren Church for their help in preparing this photo feature.)

Jerry Flora's article on page 11 gives helpful insight to the reader who wants to know more about who evangelicals are, where they came from, and where they are going.

"The First Christmas Message" looks at the announcement of the angels to the shepherds of Christ's birth and how it is especially potent for us today. And Roger Herman's thoughts about Santa Claus appear on page 16. We'd like to receive your written response to this opinion piece.

Finally, some of us in the denominational offices joined together on the back cover to share our holiday greetings. May you and yours enjoy a blessed Christmas and a profitable new year in Christ.

With His love,  
Ron Waters

MEMBER  EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION



# “What’s Happening at First Brethren?”

by Jane Stogsdill

I SUPPOSE many Warsaw residents were asking each other that question on Sunday mornings from February 8 through April 11. What did they see? Just a building—no cars in the parking lot and no activity of any kind in or around the church.

But if they had passed the church during the week, they would have realized that a remodeling program was going on in the older part of the church. Our sanctuary was completely turned around, enlarged, and renovated, and we purchased new pews and a new Allen organ. At the same time we installed a new ceiling in our old basement in order to meet fire code regulations. In time the men of the church hope to panel the basement so it will be more pleasant for our youth meetings and other activities.

During the remodeling program the congregation met at the Lincoln Elementary School, where a unified service was held each Sunday morning. It served our needs satisfactorily, but it was an excited and inspired group of believers that gathered in our new sanctuary for the first time on Easter Sunday morning.

“Dedication Day” was observed on June 6. Dr. Joseph Shultz was our guest speaker, and many other guests were present to bring greetings and congratulations. Dedication of the new organ was held on the following Sunday, with a recital given by Ira Gerig of Fort Wayne Bible College.

We were able to save a great deal of the expense because one of our own members, Glen Cripe, was capable of drawing the plans for the remodeling and guiding



*Before the sanctuary at the Warsaw First Brethren Church was remodeled, the congregation faced west.*



There was just a building—no cars in the parking lot and no activity of any kind in or around the church.

the work. The congregation approved a "resolution of appreciation" for his work at the April business meeting. We were also pleased to have had the services of Christian contractor Bill Carey.

### Building with people

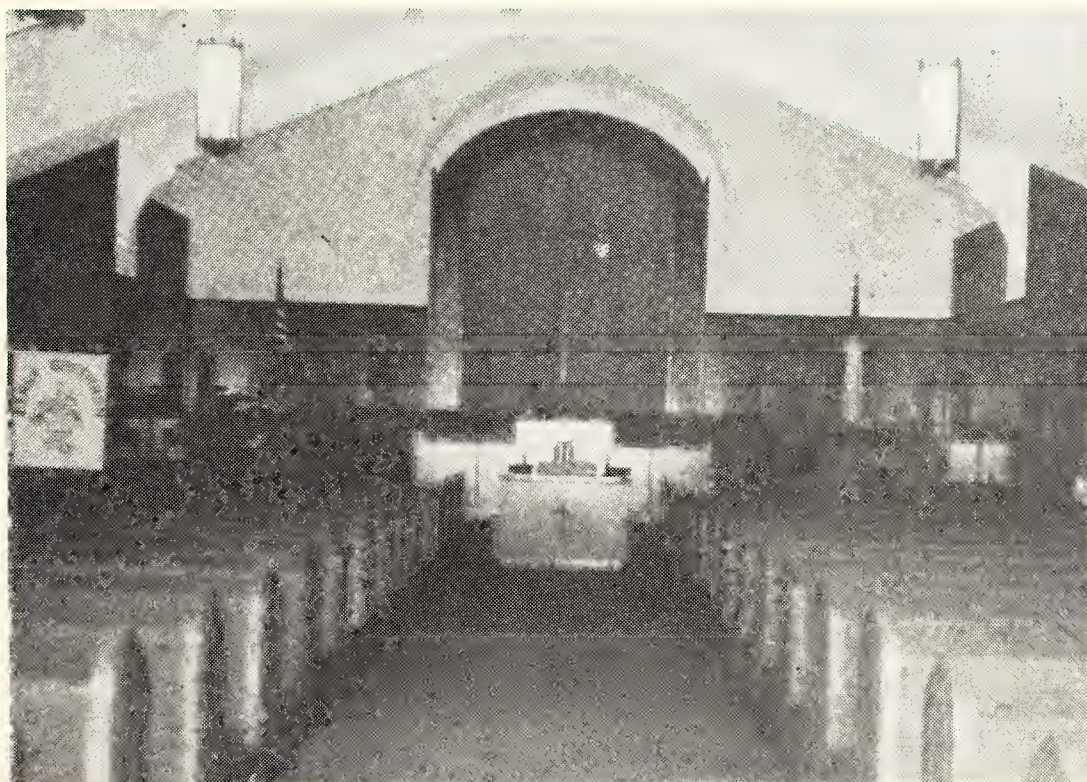
Before, during, and since the remodeling, our people have continued with God's work. Two of our young people, Kerry and Becky Scott, were Summer Crusaders this year. Mrs. Iva Lozier was voted our "Senior Citizen of the Year" candidate and was honored with other senior citizens in February. Marjorie Vance, our church organist displayed her artistic talents by designing the bicentennial symbol for the 1976 General Conference. And we helped promote a community July 4th celebra-

tion which included a 120-unit parade, a giant fireworks display, and a pageant entitled "Ears to Hear," which was presented before an estimated crowd of 5,000 at the county fairgrounds.

Our remodeling work is completed, at least for now. We give thanks to the Lord that our own bicentennial theme—"The Spirit of '76—Faith, Hope, and Love"—has prevailed in all phases of our work this year. And we look forward to the new year as we concentrate on God's work of church growth. We pray that our eyes and hearts will be open to the people of this community who have never tasted of the goodness of the Lord.

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*Jane Stogsdill is the wife of Warsaw First Brethren Church's pastor, Claude Stogsdill.*



*Now that the remodeling has been completed, worshipers face east. Some work was also done in the basement of the original structure.*



## What Makes the Sunday School Work?

by Fred Burkey

**W**HAT does make the Sunday School work? Why do some churches have flourishing Sunday Schools while others barely survive? Why are some classes vibrant, exciting . . . literally bursting with life, while others continually struggle to revive former members and recruit new people?

Certainly there are no simple answers to these questions. Nevertheless, most observers agree that leadership plays a critical role in the success or failure of any church's educational ministry. Important as they are, sound curriculum, good administration, and excellent facilities can never take the place of a corps of competent teachers.

Our Lord was a master teacher. He was widely known as an interpreter of God's Word. He was easily understood. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus taught his followers how to teach by helping, serving, and caring for people. When we get right down to it, **people are what makes the Sunday School work.**

This has been true since the first Sunday School was started in England nearly two centuries ago by a newspaperman who cared about people. Though he was a relatively wealthy man, Robert Raikes saw the plight of the poor children of Gloucester and did something about it.

History records that Raikes gathered a group of underprivileged children and

took them to church each Sunday morning. Often he had to offer them coins or gifts to get them to attend. He would then find a woman who was willing to open her home on Sunday afternoons and teach the children to read. Later they studied the catechism. After establishing the first of his schools in 1780, with a handful of students, Raikes' Sunday Schools grew to an enrollment of 250,000 students by 1787. Raikes saw people who needed help; he cared; he did what he could. In the process, he started the modern Sunday School, which in turn opened the door to universal free education in England!

Not all of us can have the impact of Robert Raikes. Most of us can be more effective Sunday School workers if we understand that **teaching is a primary ministry.** The kind of teaching that really makes the Sunday School work demands that we get involved in our students' lives; that we make a personal commitment to them. The ministering teacher has several important characteristics: (1) he is a lifelong learner, (2) he prepares for the teaching task, (3) he lives what he teaches, (4) he is a responsible leader, (5) he cares deeply about each member of his class, and (6) he learns to share his life with his pupils.

### Learning

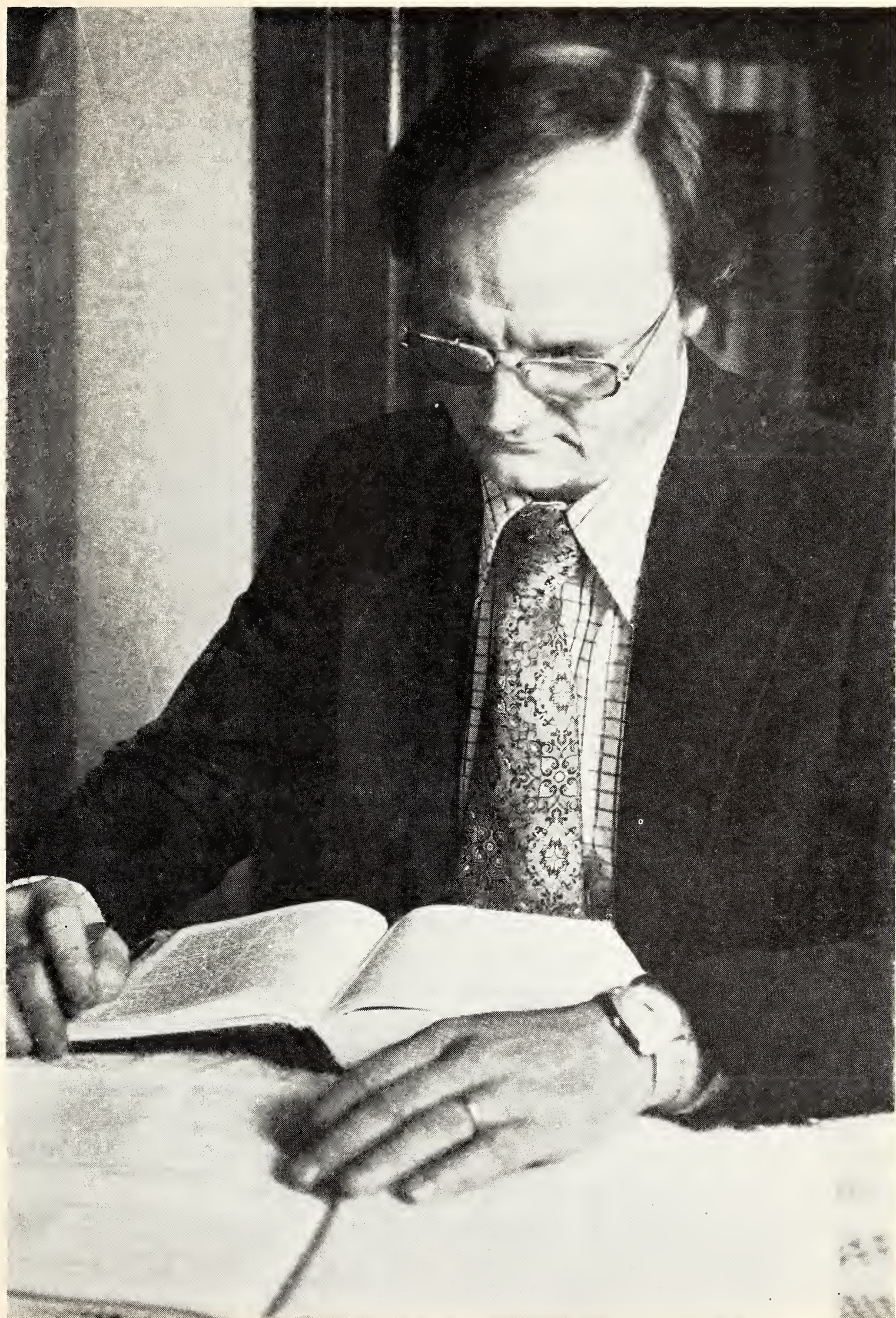
Learning is a lifelong occupation. If a person is not continually learning and growing intellectually and spiritually, he

*Learning is a lifelong occupation. The effective teacher works in close partnership with the Holy Spirit in preparing the lesson.*

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*Dr. Frederick T. Burkey is Director of Christian Education for the Brethren Church. Bill Hubler, subject of the accompanying photo story, teaches a junior high class at Park Street Brethren Church in Ashland.*









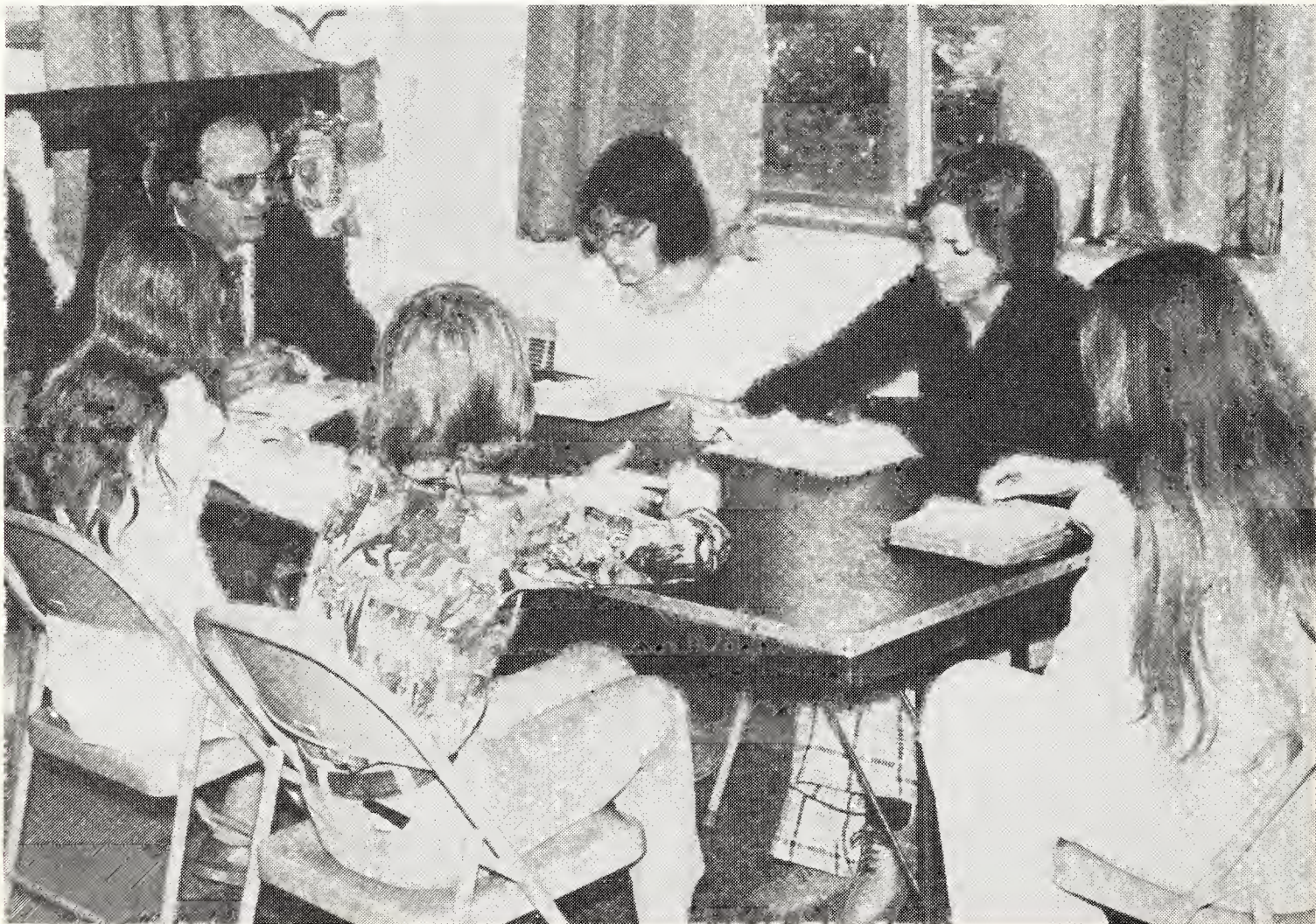
will experience stagnation. Life will seem dull and drab. Stagnated teachers find it difficult to provide spiritual nourishment for a class because of their own barren experience.

Spiritual freshness requires regular Bible study, witnessing as a normal part of everyday experience, and the exercise of love toward others. The growing Christian teacher is a lifelong observer of God's world and God's Word. The more he learns of the one, the more he understands the other. His teaching is fresh because he is involved in the here and now. The Holy Spirit seems to delight in granting deeper insights to those who try to grow and learn and become all God intends them to be.

### Preparing

The effective teacher works in close partnership with the Holy Spirit, both in preparing and presenting the lesson. He prays for wisdom and understanding. He studies the Word of God for his own

*The life a teacher lives at home will affect his teaching. He must follow Jesus' example as a faithful servant and the shepherd of his flock.*





growth and development. He **plans** carefully what to present to his class and how to present it effectively.

## Living

Most teachers must deal successfully with at least three major areas of life: home, occupation, and church. The successful teacher leads a balanced life, giving due emphasis to each area, blending these various aspects into one complete whole. This is difficult but important. Our students are more affected by what we do than by what we say. Students will model our behavior.

## Leading

The teacher is also a leader. Following Jesus' example, he must be both the shepherd of his flock and a faithful servant of the Lord. As leader of his class, he will be influencing others in ways which are determined by his own personality, the character of the class, the communication process, and the teaching objective.

## Caring

The ministering teacher cares about every member of the class. He has a God-given concern for the Body of Christ—and particularly for those in his class. Jesus' ministry was marked by compassion for both individuals and groups of people. He was responsive to human needs. To minister effectively in teaching we must open ourselves to our students and become sensitive to their needs.

## Sharing

The freedom to share God's blessings is characteristic of the ministering teacher. Such freedom comes by growth and experience. It produces an attitude that says, "Come with me and together let's discover what God has to say."

What makes the Sunday School work? More than anything else, it is a corps of ministering teachers! The essence of the ministry of teaching is guiding people to discover and experience the exciting truths God has for them in His Word and in His world.

*The ministering teacher cares about every member of the class, and he is a faithful laborer on the job, as well as in the classroom.*

*Photography by John D. Rowsey*





# Who Helps the Sunday School Teacher?

The denominational Board of Christian Education recognizes the importance of sound Bible teaching. For many years the Board has provided resources to enhance the teaching ministry. From its creation in 1966, the Board has endorsed the Gospel Light Sunday School curriculum. By special arrangement with Gospel Light, we are able to suggest editorial changes in keeping with Brethren beliefs and practices. Further, our churches can benefit from the International Center for Learning (ICL) Seminars and Clinics made available by Gospel Light. These services are provided to help teachers.

Over the years the BCE has built up and maintained a large collection of audio-visuals suitable for use in Sunday School classes, Vacation Bible Schools, camps, and training programs. Our collection of audio-visuals numbers more than 1,000 titles and represents a sizeable investment. The library is run as a service to Brethren churches, not as a revenue-producing activity. The collection is maintained to help the teachers.

Every year numerous Christian Education workshops, clinics, and seminars are conducted in local and district settings for Sunday School teachers and officers. These programs deal with various aspects of the educational ministry of the church. Some emphasize **knowledge** about teaching; some stress teaching **skills**; others deal with teacher **attitudes** about their work; still others are designed to acquaint teachers with useful **materials**.

Who helps the Sunday School teacher? The Board of Christian Education!

It is essential to the growth of the Brethren Church that our teachers continue receiving the help they need in disciple-making. **The Board of Christian Education asks your support of the denominational offering for Christian Education in December, 1976.**

Board of Christian Education  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, Ohio 44805



# The Best Yet to Come?

by Jerry Flora

AS America's bicentennial bash concludes, the nation's thoughts are turning once more to the present and the future. With every year that passes we approach ever closer to that magic date, A.D. 2000. And, for Brethren, we hope this can become a period of increasing church growth for the glory of God and our neighbor's good.

But 50 years ago the situation on the American religious scene was quite different. Turn-of-the-century conservatives and liberals had become polarized into fundamentalists and modernists. The notorious Scopes "monkey trial" of 1925 ended in defeat for fundamentalists in the public eye. More and more they sought "status by negation"—what one stood against was what counted.

In the aftermath of World War II a new generation of conservatives, reared in fundamentalism, began to call Bible-believing Christians to a more positive stance. Led by theologian Carl F. H. Henry and pastor Harold John Ockenga, they gave birth to a new mood on the contemporary religious scene: evangelicalism. In some parts of the globe "evangelical" (from the *evangel*, the gospel message of good news) means "Protestant," but in North America during the fifties and sixties it came to mean more.

We may describe evangelicals as informed, open-minded Protestants who espouse the beliefs of historic orthodoxy with Christian love and intellectual integrity. Evangelicals are progressive or modern in their methods, but in content of faith they are conservative or orthodox. And orthodoxy is that part of Christendom which grounds its religious authority in the Bible, the Word of God written. The evangelical movement is typified in the cooperative crusades of Billy Graham, the biweekly Christianity Today, several outstanding newer seminaries (Fuller, Trinity, and Conservative Baptist, for example), and the National Association of Evangelicals.

With Henry, Ockenga, and others relinquishing active leadership, a number of thoughtful observers have begun to take stock of the trend these men began. Two church historians, David F. Wells and John D. Woodbridge, recently edited a valuable report, **The Evangelicals: What They Believe, Who They Are, Where They Are Changing** (Abingdon Press, 1975). This is the most complete description of the movement between covers. History, theology, the social fabric of evangelicals—they all are discussed. What is different about the volume is that it includes critical analyses by three outstanding non-evangelicals: theologian Paul Holmer and historian Sidney Ahlstrom, both of Yale,

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"As the founders of the evangelical renaissance retire, a new and sometimes restless generation of leaders is replacing them."

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and Chicago's Martin E. Marty. The book is not complete (none can be), but it represents the best attempt to date at objectively assessing these latter-day conservatives.

**The Evangelical Heritage** (Word Books, 1973) is the fourteenth book Bernard Ramm has published. Together with Carl Henry, Edward John Carnell, Vernon Grounds, John R. W. Stott, and others, Ramm represents the best in evangelical theology. This book of less than two hundred pages sketches the history of orthodoxy from the early church to the 1970's. Here a thoughtful reader can become acquainted with the great thinkers of Christendom, especially the Protestant Reformers. One also will discover what

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*Dr. Jerry Flora is Assistant Professor of New Testament Theology at Ashland Theological Seminary.*



“We may describe evangelicals as informed, open-minded Protestants . . . progressive or modern in their methods, but in content of faith they are conservative or orthodox.”

happened in the past when conservatives responded to religious liberalism and what may wait in the future for evangelicalism.

Donald G. Bloesch is a prolific younger writer whose theological orientation is broader than Ramm's. In **The Evangelical Renaissance** (Eerdmans paperback, 1973) he examines three separate areas of investigation. First, he describes in several chapters what evangelicalism is, together with reasons for its current popularity. He follows this with a reassessment of the century's most famous theologian, Karl Barth. Bloesch shows where the great Swiss thinker is to be faulted and where he is to be appreciated. The book concludes with a long chapter entitled “The Legacy of Pietism.” This will bring joy to the heart of Brethren, for here one element of our heritage is held up to sympathetic view. This chapter alone may be worth the price of the book.

As the founders of the evangelical

renaissance retire, a new and sometimes restless generation of leaders is replacing them. New emphases are moving into the foreground, some of them reassuring and others unsettling. Richard Quebedeaux reports this in **The Young Evangelicals: Revolution in Orthodoxy** (Harper & Row paperback, 1974). His analysis of types of conservatism is especially helpful: the separatist fundamentalists, the open fundamentalists, the establishment evangelicals, the new evangelicals, and the charismatic renewal. Quebedeaux terms changing attitudes toward biblical criticism, evangelism, and social action a “revolution in orthodoxy.” He may at times overstate his case, but he is eager to live not in the past but in the present.

Jack Rogers, another of the young evangelical thinkers, has put together some autobiographical reflections in **Confessions of a Conservative Evangelical** (Westminster Press paperback, 1974). He describes in personal fashion his American upbringing in a traditional conservative manner, then details how experiences in an Egyptian work camp and a Dutch university forced him to expand his horizons. Rogers is plainly a young man on his way with a willingness to lay his questions on the line.

Personally, I don't agree with everything mentioned in these books—nor will you. But we dare not run the risk of being either lazy or ignorant, both dangerous for Christian disciples. All of these books may be recommended as outstanding descriptions of what is currently important for Brethren and others of like mind. Alert church librarians may need to add **The Evangelicals** to their collections. Growing pastors will plan to study **The Evangelical Heritage** and **The Evangelical Renaissance**. Readers with an eye to the future may want to explore Quebedeaux and Rogers.

And the last word has not been spoken: Dr. Henry, the movement's most respected theologian-journalist, has promised a book on the subject in the near future. Perhaps the best is yet to come!

## \$500 x 2 = WHO?

The Evangelical Press Association, a non-profit corporation of 250 Christian periodicals with a combined circulation of nearly 12 million, makes available each year scholarship funds for students dedicated to the pursuit of Christian journalism.

EPA issues at least two \$500 grants annually through its “Mel Larson Journalism Scholarship” program to deserving college students currently enrolled.

Application forms are available, and must be completed by March 1. Write for complete details.



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# books

## Open with Care

**Strategy for Living** by Edward R. Dayton and Ted W. Engstrom (Regal Books, 1976, 191 pp., \$6.95 cloth cover).

"Open with care" does not mean the book is difficult to understand but rather that it may change your life. It is very easy to read and contains practical examples in each chapter. The book also becomes a study guide, with something for you and your family to do at the end of each chapter.

**Strategy for Living** does not lay out a plan which, if followed, will bring success. It does contain a strategy for improving your living, summed up in four words: goals, priorities, planning, and living. The authors are very clear in stating that life is a process: we learn as we live. They ask you to set some goals, establish your priorities, do your planning, and then by living set new goals.

The material contained in the book has been put into practice by people who have attended the "Managing Your Time" seminars conducted by the authors across the country. Many attest to its effectiveness.

The authors state: "What we offer . . . is no simple formula. We don't promise that you will become happy, wealthy, or even successful. But we do believe that what you'll find here is an approach to the total Christian life-style that will make you a more effective and God-honoring person."

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

## The One and Only You

**The One and Only You** by Bruce Larson (Word Books, 1974, 140 pp., \$4.95).

People are each one of a kind. In other words we don't come in carbon copies. So what kind am I? How do I make the most of my uniqueness?

This author offers new insights for dealing with change creatively, using the past for growth, maximizing your strengths and minimizing your weaknesses, living in the present with openness, joy, and expectancy, claiming your future and experiencing the gift of hope.

"The idea of conversion which has always been so frightening to many is nothing more than God offering us the possibility to change. It is a process of gaining rather than losing. . . . We do not lose our identity; rather we find and become the original and authentic self we were meant to be."

Many of Bruce Larson's books and articles have been helpful to me, to keep me asking, "Am I feeling too satisfied with myself or living in the past rather than in the present? Do I want to make new discoveries about how God can make my life more unique and purposeful?"

Keith Miller, author of **The Taste of New Wine**, says that he believes **The One and Only You** is the best book Bruce Larson has written—and he has written many. In Keith Miller's own words, "For

me this has already been a very timely and helpful book. I heartily recommend it for Christians who are trying to find out who they are and how they should live for Christ!"

—Julie Flora, Ashland, Ohio

## Beyond Spiritual Gifts

**Beyond Spiritual Gifts** by Rick Yohn (Tyndale House Publishers, 1976, 175 pp., \$3.95).

Rick Yohn's first book, **Discover Your Spiritual Gift and Use It**, was reviewed sometime ago in the Brethren Evangelist along with several other books concerning the use of spiritual gifts in the church.

His second book takes a look at each of the evidences of the fruit of the Spirit as marks of God's character in the individual. His first chapter has a brief study on the qualifications for elders and deacons as given to us in Scripture. Mr. Yohn points out that almost none of these qualifications are spiritual gifts but rather marks of character. He continues to show how character fulfills the basic commands of Scripture.

Chapters include such thought-provokers as "Getting a Good Night's Sleep," "Dove Power," and "Learning to Say No."

Dr. Billy Graham, in the September 1976 issue of Decision magazine, said, "Man says we must have something. God says we must be something." Rick Yohn says, "God has given two kinds of ability to the church. He has provided the potential for godly character which enables a believer to be. He has also distributed spiritual gifts which enable a believer to do. Both abilities are essential for the health of the Body, although being is more important than doing."

I enjoyed reading the book and plan to go back and read it again, as well as use it as the basis for other studies in Scripture.

—John Rowsey, Ashland, Ohio

## New Titles

*From Tyndale House:*

**The Cup of Wonder** by Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie (1976, 141 pp., \$3.95). In this series of unusual meditations on the Lord's Supper, this famous pastor shares with the reader some great insights on the bread and wine. Such themes as forgiveness, hope, and love are explored with the perceptive and compassionate touch of one who has lingered in the Upper Room and pondered long our Lord's commemorative meal.

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## Coming in the next issue of the Brethren Evangelist

Joe Bayly will help "both traditionalists and innovation freaks" in the church find a healthy Christian balance with his article "How to Survive Shock in Church."



# The First Christmas Message

The message of the first Christmas continues to ring loud and clear today.

"And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And the angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone around about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."

—Luke 2:8-11

SUCH was the announcement of the Christ Child made to this world. Such the announcement God sent by a special messenger from the courts of high heaven to make our common humanity. Only once and once for all was this messenger sent on this supreme business.

Upon great occasions or under extraordinary circumstances a nation will send a Minister Extraordinary to another nation. But none has ever carried such a message or made such an announcement as this Minister Extraordinary from heaven brought to a few humble shepherds on the Judean fields that first Christmas night.

**"Be not afraid!"** These are the angel's first words. They were spoken to timid and frightened hearts. And the beauty about

it all is that these words are still the first words of the Christmas message. Let them ring out over the wide, wide world! Let them reach to the darkest hovels of sin, and to the deepest, wildest haunts of lost men and women and little children. "Be not afraid!" Where superstition enthralls and terrifies let these words bring peace. Where ignorance enslaves and the thought of God makes men tremble may some angel dispel the terror. Where the darkness of night falls thick, and where men cannot see the way to take that leadeth to life, may this Christmas message lighten the sky and the field with its resplendent glory from heaven. Aye, when men shall go down into the valley of the shadow of death: when you and I, yours and mine, shall go down into that dark valley, oh, may it be bright with light. "Be not afraid." That word from the Christmas angel from the throne will make the call of this other messenger welcome. "Be not afraid." This is the first message of Christmas. In all the world there is nothing to make the child of God afraid.

**"Good tidings."** These words belong to the Christmas message and they, too, are fine. Tidings are ever welcome, thrice welcome if they are good. God's angel from this throne brings good tidings.

I have wondered whether we always remember that this gospel of our Lord is from heaven, from our Father. There is enough of news that is so sad, so hopeless and so sinful that the heart grows sick and the vision dim. Over against the world's sin we have good news from heaven. Over against man's hopelessness and helplessness we have good news from heaven. For suffering, innocent suffering of heart and body, and suffering of penalty—for age-long sufferings an angel from heaven brought good tidings of eternal surcease. For all unfinished tasks and disappointed heartlongings, for all unrequited toils, and for all the imperfections of life's endeavor our Father's good tidings born with the Christ Child bring infinite calm to the soul.





“And there were . . . shepherds abiding in the field.”

Luke 2:8

“Good tidings.” That spells happiness for men. It brings release to the most brutal and heartless slavery Satan ever devised—the enthrallment of womanhood and childhood. To none other can the Christmas message be quite so sweet and so entrancing as to the wife and mother, the daughter and sister and sweetheart of the Christian home. Christmas redeemed **womanhood and childhood**. Good news to the daughters of God and the sisters of men throughout the wide, wide world came first from the lips of the Angel Extraordinary from heaven on the first Christmas night.

“Of great joy.” What else could a message from heaven be but one of great joy? Man was made to be happy, to rejoice in the love and goodness of his Father and in the beauty and fullness of his world. But sin and selfishness and human greed have joined with ignorance and superstition and hardness of heart to drive the smile of God even from a little babe’s face.

To vast multitudes joy is a stranger and life a burden, and God’s good world a prisonhouse. The joy of Christmas, the good cheer of the conquering host, the real happiness of the people with the Christ-Childlike spirit is still, after almost two thousand years, wanting in the hearts of uncounted throngs of our humankind. “Good tidings of great joy” have not yet been heard all the world around. No, no, not even yet in our land. No, not in your little town and mine have all really found this joy of the Christ sent from heaven. Tell it out, brother, sister. By your sincerity of life and heart compel men to see and own it.

“For all people.” For all people, the angel said that night. The Christmas message is a missionary message. The angel told the shepherds. The shepherds carried the news to Bethlehem. From Bethlehem it spread until after 60 years or more St. Luke heard it. He wrote it in a book. The Book has lived to this day and has told the message countless millions of times in many languages of the

world. Others besides Luke heard it and told it. Others in turn told it. You heard it. So did I. Let us this moment worship before God—thank God we heard the message. It was meant for us, that is true. But that it was meant for us alone, and that we should keep the secret—that is not true. God means that we shall tell it to others and help others tell it. He means that all people shall hear it.

Yes, the Christ Child of Judea is the world’s. He belongs equally to black and brown and yellow men with us white men. No white man’s heart so black with sin but he, the Savior, can make it white as snow. No crimson soul of black-faced man so deep stained but he, the Savior, can make it white like wool.

A Savior for all the people is this Christ. So the angel said. And if the Christmas joy has any real worth to us, and if the good tidings really are good to us we must become his heralds of this message. And we must begin at home among our loved ones and there live and tell the happy story. But we must reach our neighbors and our friends, too, with its sweet and charming sound and make them happy. Yes, and beyond that we must go with this cheer and this great salvation until we have made all people know it also.

Reprinted from the December 17, 1966, issue of the Brethren Evangelist.





*as i see it*

## **Santa and Christmas**

*by Roger Herman*

The Good News, or Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 19, records little children being brought to Jesus so that He might lay His hands on them and bless them, or pray for them. The disciples apparently thought that Jesus should not be "bothered" by parents bringing their children to Jesus, and they rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (NASB). Jesus then laid His hands on them as He had been desired to do.

It is apparent from this that our Lord not only loves children, but also desires that they be brought to Him. Are you bringing your children to Him?

I have shared this incident in the life of Christ with you so that we may now draw a contrast and see Satan at work in today's world. And especially so at Christmas time, and other religious holidays.

Satan always has a substitute for everything good that comes from God. Christmas is the time of year we celebrate the birth of Christ. Satan is desirous of taking the eyes of the world away from Jesus. He doesn't care how he goes about it just so it is accomplished.

Satan is not stupid. In fact he often comes to us as an angel of light the Bible says. At Christmas time he comes to us in such a slick disguise that most Christians simply play into his hands, ever so innocently. Satan wants to do his job without being suspected if possible. If we recognized Satan we would not go along with him so easily. Therefore he tries to be as slick as possible in his deception of men.

I suggest to you the idea that Satan uses Santa Claus to get the eyes of the world off the real meaning of Christmas. Jesus the Messiah has been born!

It is Santa that comes to town in a parachute or helicopter, or some other method, and all the children are brought to Santa. It is big business for

a store to have Santa come in some spectacular way, because it attracts business to their store. It is a time of greed for the storekeeper and a time of poverty for the average person. More people give away more things that they didn't want to give away than at any other time of the year.

Christ is against both. He is against greed, and He wills that we give because we want to, not because it is the thing to do.

Nevertheless, Santa comes. The children sit on Santa's lap, somewhat as they must have sat on Jesus' lap. Parents plaster pictures of Santa all over their homes, lawns, and trees. He is sung about and lauded as if he were a person who really existed.

Satan always propagates a lie. In John 8:44 Jesus said of the devil or Satan, "he does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies." (NASB) At Christmas time Satan propagates the lie that Santa comes with reindeer, and that he comes down the chimney on Christmas Eve to bring toys to those children who have been good. Children are threatened that if they are not good Santa (whose name if you vary the letters spells Satan) will not bring them any toys. This whole thing denotes deception and promotes a lie. However we have given it a nice name so as not to make it seem so bad. We call it a fairly tale, or a myth.

Satan doesn't mind that though. It gets the job done! It still takes the eyes of the world away from Jesus the Savior, and focuses them on a lie.

Many of you probably think this is total foolishness. Then I would ask you two questions. Who do most of the symbols around your home at Christmas time represent, Christ or Santa? And when you think of Christmas who dominates your thinking, Christ or Santa? If it is the latter, Satan has succeeded.

Oh yes, lest we forget to warn you, Satan will be back one of these days in the form of an Easter Bunny laying eggs (which promotes a lie and takes peoples minds away from the real meaning of Easter).

I challenge you to make your stand with Christ this Christmas and make your home a Christ-centered, Christ-controlled Home.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Is your training supporting a lie, or The Way, The Truth and The Life?

Views expressed in "As I See It" are strictly those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Brethren Church or the Brethren Publishing Company.

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*Roger Herman is a student at Ashland Theological Seminary. His article "Try Loving" appeared in the April 1976 issue of the Brethren Evangelist.*

*"As I See It" provides opportunity for our readers to express opinions that may or may not be held by the majority. The Brethren Evangelist welcomes submissions for this column and responses to articles appearing here. All contributions to this column should be written with the intent of edifying and enlightening the body of Christ.*



## Ohio Conference sets goals, plans strategies for future

**Delaware, Ohio**—Goal setting, planning of strategies, and discussion of changes in the bylaws characterized the fall business meeting of the Ohio Conference of Brethren Churches.

The Conference met here on the grounds of Ohio Wesleyan University as part of a continuing experiment to garner more delegate participation.

During the afternoon session, delegates and visitors divided into small groups. Each group was instructed to make a list of goals for the district, and then select one of the goals and begin to develop a strategy for meeting it.

The groups concentrated primarily on ministerial recruitment and the possibility of hiring a district administrator.

Two changes in the Conference bylaws presented by the Executive Committee were discussed. One, expanding the size of the Executive Committee to include a representative from each district board and the retiring moderator, was passed. The change also included the responsibility of developing long-range and short-range objectives for the district as one of the committee's duties.

A second proposed change, that would have made the spring and fall business meetings part of the bylaws, was defeated in order to allow more time for experimentation.

Attendance at the October meeting included 53 lay and 20 ministerial delegates. This number was reported to be below that of the March meeting but higher than the average for the June meetings at Camp Bethany during previous years.

## Flora holds Rally Day, Homecoming

**Flora, Ind.**—A "Rally Day, Homecoming, and Fellowship Love Feast" was held at the First Brethren Church here on Oct. 17. A five-course noon meal was interspersed with devotions, special music, and testimonies, ending at 2:30 p.m. with a devotional talk by Rev. C. Y. Gilmer of Harrisonburg, Va.

Other special guests were Mrs. Freeman Ankrum of Boones Mills, Va., and Mrs. Carl Fisher of Newark, Ohio. Corresponding Secretary Doris Duff also reports that 120 were in attendance for the celebration.

## Gratis burns mortgage

**Gratis, Ohio**—The Gratis First Brethren Church combined its 1976 Homecoming with a mortgage burning service on Oct. 17 at the church. About 125 members and friends attended the service, according to Phyllis Wickle, correspondent for the church.

The mortgage burning was conducted during the afternoon service, five years to the day after the ground breaking for the \$75,000 addition to the church. Bill Walk, former pastor, led the mortgage burning service.

The noon meal was served by the WMS of the church.



Staff Photo

*Dick DeVeney demonstrates his "Daily Spirit Lifters" to two interested customers at the Ashland County Fair.*

## The Carpenter's Shop goes to the fair

**Ashland, Ohio**—The Carpenter's Shop joined other merchants in displaying its products at the 1976 Ashland County Fair in September.

This was the first time the Brethren bookstore had participated in the fair, and the response was quite favorable, according to Manager Dan DeVeney.

During the week several staff members manned the booth, selling books and gift items and telling fair goers about the store which opened in its new location on Claremont Avenue in June.



# Rev. Clarence M. Hesketh

a tribute by Arden E. Gilmer



*Clarence Hesketh*

Rev. Clarence M. Hesketh, age 64, died on October 2, 1976. At the time of his death "Fuzzy" was actively serving the Lord as pastor of the Valley Brethren Church, Jones Mills, Pennsylvania. He had become the full-time pastor for this church in 1968, and the church made steady progress under his ministry. The crowning achievement came when a beautiful new church building was dedicated in August of this year. Rev. Hesketh had worked diligently side by side with the men of the church to complete the building, which was dedicated debt free.

Rev. Hesketh was a native of Vandergrift, Pennsylvania. Before beginning his pastoral ministry, he worked for many years as a steelworker. After a renewed commitment to the Lord, he served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, and youth director at the Pleasant View Brethren Church. Recognizing God's call on his life, he responded to a call to the pastoral ministry. In preparation for this ministry he completed the reading program of the Pennsylvania District Ministerial Examining Board, was licensed in 1967, and was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1970. Prior to assuming the Valley Brethren pastorate, he served as co-interim pastor for the Pleasant View Brethren Church.

Pastor Hesketh is survived by his wife, Myrl, four sons, and one daughter. Memorial services were conducted by Rev. William Walk and Rev. Thomas Kidder. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts were designated for the work of Riverside Christian Training School of Lost Creek, Kentucky. Pastor Hesketh had become very interested in this work.

During the eight years of our friendship I had many warm, personal, and memorable experiences with Pastor Hesketh and his family. People felt comfortable and at ease in his presence. His friendly and compassionate concern for the welfare of people spoke volumes of his love for the Lord. His latter years of ministry reveal the potential for ministry possessed by many believers. He was faithful to God's call, and as a result, had eight years of fruitful pastoral ministry following his early retirement from secular employment.

## In Memory

**Rev. Fred C. Vanator**, 91, Nov. 1. Former editor of the Brethren Evangelist and one of the founders of the Sarasota, Fla., Brethren Church. Funeral services by J. D. Hamel, pastor, assisted by Rev. Russell Gordon.

**Carol Miller**, 53, Oct. 28. Member of Gratis, Ohio, Brethren Church. Services by Gene Hollinger, pastor.

**Bob Black**, 22, Oct. 15. Member of Milledgeville, Ill., Brethren Church, son of Pastor and Mrs. Jim Black. Services by Dr. Fred Burkey and Rev. Fab. Guzman.

**Lamoine Bush**, 76, Oct. 15. Member of No. Manchester, Ind., Brethren Church. Services by Woodrow Immel, pastor.

**Mrs. Eva Honecker**, 83, Oct. 15. Member of Flora, Ind., First Brethren Church. Services by Alvin Grumbling, pastor.

**Carl Blaine Taylor**, 57, Oct. 9. Member of Cerro Gordo, Ill., Brethren Church. Services by William Livingston, pastor.

**Mrs. Iva Hepler**, 68, Oct. 8. Member of Vandergrift, Pa., Pleasant View Brethren Church. Services by William Walk, pastor.



Burnham to speak at ATS  
Pastor's Conference

Ashland, Ohio—The Ashland Theological Seminary Alumni Association has announced that Dr. David Burnham will be the speaker at the annual ATS Pastor's Conference. The conference is scheduled for February 7 to 10.

Burnham is pastor of the Chapel in University Park in Akron, Ohio. His theme will be "The Pastor—His Perspective and His Privilege."

Cost of the conference is \$37.00, which includes lodging, meals, and a registration fee. Those making arrangements for their own lodging and meals will pay \$5.00.

Third Brethren extends bequest

Johnstown, Pa.—Mrs. Richard Howard, secretary of Third Brethren Church here, informed the Brethren Publishing Company of a bequest the church received from the will of the late Samuel F. Powell, a member of the congregation.

According to Mrs. Howard, Mr. Powell "left a substantial sum of money to our church in his will with the stipulation that we distribute it as we saw fit. Because of his avid interest in books, our congregation voted to send an amount to the Publishing Company to be used to help pay for the Carpenter's Shop."

In commenting on the gift, Executive Director John Rowsey said, "The construction of the Carpenter's Shop has been a step of faith on the part of the Brethren Publishing Company, and gifts such as this do much to encourage us."

AC loses distinguished profs  
by death

Ashland, Ohio—Ashland College lost two distinguished professors in late summer as the result of death.

Dr. Rendell Rhoades, 62, professor of biology and chairman of the biology department, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 26. Dr. Rhoades had been a member of the AC faculty since 1962, and he was director of the science division from 1972-76. He had been an international authority on fresh water crayfish.

Dr. Howard Rowe, 51, died on Aug. 15. He had been a professor of education at AC for several years.

Goldenaires

Mr. & Mrs. LaMar Cripe, 58th, Nov. 30. Members of First Brethren Church, Elkhart, Ind.

Membership Growth

Sarasota: 20 by baptism, 4 by letter

Calendar of Events

February 5-25—Work and Worship Tour II to Colombia, Argentina, and Panama.

10th anniversary for church  
at County Line

Lakeville, Ind.—The County Line Brethren Church held its Tenth Anniversary and Homecoming Celebration on Oct. 3. Rev. Duane Dickson was the speaker for the day.

Mrs. Marie Bachtel reports that 126 attended the afternoon service and 102 were present for the morning worship. Farthest distance traveled for the occasion was by Carmen Fетters, who journeyed from Jacksonville, Fla.

Special music was offered by Kevin and Amy Isenberg, Delores and Vickie Newcomb, and Marcia Mangus and Martha Ford.

The church was organized in 1895, and in 1948 a parsonage was built. In 1964 the church was moved across the road from its former location, but it was destroyed by a tornado on Palm Sunday, 1965. The present structure was dedicated on Sept. 25, 1966.

Rev. Dickson's sermon was entitled "Winning Souls for Christ."

Weddings

Del O'Connors to Evan Martin, Oct. 16, at Elkhart, Ind. Member of Elkhart Brethren Church. Dale RuLon, pastor, officiating.

Stella Weitz to Olen Zack, Oct. 16, at Vandergrift, Pa., Pleasant View Brethren Church. William Walk, pastor, officiating.

Chrislin Sparks to David Young, Oct. 16, at South Bend, Ind., Ardmore Brethren Church. Brian Moore, pastor, officiating.

BEFORE YOU MOVE  
... please let us know.

1. Give old address:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

2. Fill in new address below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date new address in effect \_\_\_\_\_

3. Mail this form to:

Address Correction  
Brethren Publishing Company  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, OH 44805





Photo by Bill Mason

*The David Cookseys were welcomed as the pastoral family at Lanark.*

## Cookseys welcomed at Lanark

**Lanark, Ill.**—The First Brethren Church here welcomed their new pastor and his family.

On Sunday, Oct. 3, Dave and Carolyn Cooksey came to Lanark from Indiana, where they served for four years at the Kokomo Brethren Church. Arriving with the Cookseys were their two daughters, Carrie and Anna.

Members and friends of the church provided the pastor with fresh produce and canned goods to help fill their cupboards in the parsonage, according to Joy Mason, office secretary.

On Sunday, October 10, all area churches were invited to share in a service of installation and welcome for the Cookseys. Rev. James Black of the Milledgeville Brethren Church officiated at the installation. Each of the local ministers brought greetings from their congregations.

## Only 6,000 Left!

The Missionary Board has printed a brand new "My Missionary Partner" booklet with pictures and information regarding all our missionaries. This publication was produced in time for distribution at General Conference. But all churches do not have their supply, and we are anxious to provide all you need for your membership. We can mail these if you prefer, or you can direct some member of your church who will be in Ashland to stop by the Missionary Board office for them.

## AC Executive Committee approves staff reductions

**Ashland, Ohio**—Ashland College's executive committee of the board of trustees accepted a balanced 1976-77 budget on October 1, based on administrative actions that have cut \$227,000 out of the current budget.

The recent actions include faculty and staff reductions for 1977-78, achieving a 16 to 1 student-faculty ratio, expanded admissions efforts, and generation of many revenue-producing programs.

Besides balancing the current budget, the cuts will create a projected surplus of more than \$500,000 for 1977-78.

The anticipated surplus will be used to reduce the accumulated \$1.8 million deficit incurred at AC over the past three years, resulting from decreased student enrollment and a shortfall in contributed funds.

The various actions grew out of the recommendations from the College's long-range planning committee, the joint committee on institutional and personnel problems, and the management study conducted by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co.

Dr. Glenn L. Clayton, president of the College, said that with these steps taken, almost all programs can be operated with an equivalence of 23.5 fewer full-time faculty members. Currently there are 134 full-time faculty.

Dr. Clayton commented, "The tremendous cooperation of all members of the campus community has enabled the board of trustees and administration to make the reductions necessary to balance our current budget.

"These are the ways Ashland College is coping with the same problems that many colleges and universities are facing."

He continued, "Our basic academic programs are remaining intact. We certainly do not want to weaken our strong areas. Some adjustments will be made where we have limited students."

The president added that the major factor in this process has been that trustees, faculty, administration and students have worked as a team to solve these problems.

Dr. Robert Janusko, chairman of the joint committee and president of the AAUP, the faculty bargaining agent, said, "The faculty has been very involved in helping to establish the procedures in releasing faculty and, at the same time, insure the continuance of our strong academic programs. We recognize the College's financial problems and we are making rational adjustments."

Dr. Clayton said that AC also is reducing operating expenditures, consolidating many administrative services and providing greater efficiency based on the Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. study.

He added, "We recognize our strengths and our problems, and we are taking steps to assure that Ashland College will continue to offer a personalized education so important now and in the future."





## **1977 Senior Citizen Recognition**

The Benevolent Board of the Brethren Church is again sponsoring the "Senior Citizen of the Year" award in 1977. The individual selected by the board from among all applicants submitted by local Brethren churches will be honored at the 1977 General Conference.

Local Brethren churches should select their own "Senior Citizen of the Year" by the same rules and qualifications as the national recipient and should submit their nominee to the national office for consideration.

Senior Citizen Sunday will be February 14 (or the alternate date of June 13). This Sunday will start an entire week of activities to be known as Senior Citizen Week, February 14-20, 1977 (or the alternate week of June 13-19).

Suggested activities for Senior Citizen Week are:

- Honor all senior citizens on Senior Citizen Sunday with a fellowship meal and recognition in the morning worship service
- Conduct a craft fair where senior citizens display their handwork for church members and community friends
- Senior citizens could conduct classes in various crafts during the craft fair for those who would like to learn them
- Have a "home night" when small groups of senior citizens would be invited to homes for meals and fellowship, or take food and active senior citizens into homes of shut-in senior citizens
- Senior citizens might work together on a project for the church, their own group, or the community, such as repairing hymn books, fixing class room or meeting room for their group, or aiding a community project
- Program on February 20 (or June 19) by senior citizens of testimony, praise, and report of the week's events
- Use your imagination for other activities during Senior Citizen Week.

The objectives of the "Senior Citizen of the Year" Award are twofold:

1. To make our congregations aware of the value of our elderly.
2. To honor a worthy recipient for his service to the church and community.

Qualifications for considering an individual as "Senior Citizen of the Year" are:

1. Must be 62 years or older
2. Service to the church
3. Service to the community
4. Service to individuals



5. Personal example of the Christian life and walk
6. Must be a member of the Brethren Church
7. Accomplishments in such areas as work, art, music, etc.

Other suggestions for conducting this program:

1. The nominee should be other than the congregation's 1976 nominee.
2. Please give complete and detailed information concerning the candidate to aid the committee in selecting the national "Senior Citizen of the Year."
3. Be sure to submit your local nominee for national consideration! Last year some local nominees were never submitted for national consideration or were submitted past the deadline date.
4. Local selection should be fair and thorough. Make sure everyone understands the qualifications for submitting a name for consideration—these qualifications should be printed well in advance or one of the folders supplied by the Benevolent Board given to each person making a nomination. If you wish to have more folders than those sent to the church, just write and request the amount needed.

Procedures for selection:

1. Determine who will select the local recipient: special committee, benevolent committee, etc. (National recipient to be selected by national Benevolent Board from nominees submitted by all churches.)
2. Provide the application forms for all church members who wish to submit a nominee. Only one nominee from each church will be accepted for consideration by the national Benevolent Board.
3. Set a date when all nominations must be received, have committee select one nominee, and present the award at a special church fellowship or Sunday worship service. The local nominee must be submitted for national consideration no later than July 15, 1977. Please send your local entry to:

**The Benevolent Board**  
524 College Avenue  
Ashland, Ohio 44805

4. The national winner and his local church will be notified of his selection as "Senior Citizen of the Year" and arrangements will be made for receiving the the award at the 1977 General Conference.

## **New Feature: Senior Citizen Church Award**

The 1977 Senior Citizen program will include a new feature.

The Benevolent Board will recognize the church with the most unique program for the elderly in addition to honoring the "Senior Citizen of the Year."

We wish to encourage and honor those churches who are participating in senior citizen programs, so one church will be selected for this honor and be recognized at General Conference.

We ask that local churches submit details of programs being conducted for or by senior citizens in the local congregation. Outreach into the community will also be a consideration if it has been initiated by the local church.

This information should be submitted at the same time as the local nominee for "Senior Citizen of the Year." The reverse side of the nominee form contains the application for submitting your group program.

Our purpose in including this feature in 1977 is:

- To encourage group activities in the local church for/by senior citizens.
- To recognize a local church for their participation in a program for/by senior citizens.

Recognition for the church with the most unique or active program for/by senior citizens will be made at a special banquet during the 1977 General Conference.



# Nominee for Senior Citizen of the Year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Member of \_\_\_\_\_ Brethren Church

Marital Status (check one)

☐ Married ☐ Single ☐ Widow ☐ Widower ☐ Divorced

If ever married, give spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of:  
grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_ great-grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_ great-great-grandchildren \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation during working years \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies or special skills \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Give explicit details on attached page for:

Activities denoting service to the church

Activities denoting service to the community

Activities denoting service to individuals

Accomplishments in such areas as work, art, music, etc.

Examples of the nominee's personal Christian life and walk

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# Senior Citizen Church Award

Name of Brethren Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Describe in detail the activity/program conducted for/by senior citizens in your local congregation, including date/s when they occurred in 1976-77.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## WRC Assists Brethren Missions

The World Relief Commission, official relief agency of the National Association of Evangelicals, has sent a check for \$1,500 to the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church to help bolster the "relief programs" of Brethren Missions in India. (WRC is the agency through which all Brethren World Relief Offerings are channeled).

This gift, along with all similar amounts anticipated in the future, will be sent through the Brethren Missionary Board and are handled as over-and-above the amounts already set in the Board's budget for relief-type ministries in India. Currently, about \$10,000 from the Mission Board budget is directed to India for the hospital, orphanage, relief, and other medical ministries under the direction of Prasantha and Vijaya Kumar.

When I was in Rajahmundry and Visakhapatnam, India, last February, I viewed several of the relief ministries firsthand. Some are right in the city of Rajahmundry where Prasantha and Nirmala Kumar serve . . . the **clinic** (where hundreds of out-patients are treated daily) and the **orphanage** (providing a home and spiritual training for about 25 young boys).

But other **relief work** is done far out of the cities of Rajahmundry and Visakhapatnam (where Vijaya and Sujatha Kumar serve). Each evening we drove many miles to rural villages for late-night prayer services—after which bundles of clothing or blankets were distributed to needy families. And one night Dr. Sujatha Kumar held "clinic" by kerosene lamp for several people before we left—using her medical instruments and a couple cardboard boxes of medicines.

The funds from WRC will make available such things as much-needed additional medicines for the hospital-clinic and bundles of relief clothing.

This \$1,500 was a grant for 1976, with a similar amount designated in WRC's 1977 budget. After further study and evaluation of past accomplishments and the current needs in India, there is a possibility that additional funds will be available in 1977 as well.

One further value of this arrangement is that it gives WRC an established contact in the province of Andhra Pradesh (where Rajahmundry and Visakhapatnam are located in south India). WRC is active in the Calcutta and New Delhi areas, but our Brethren Mission will be their channel of helping in the south at the present time. If some kind of disaster hits, the way is already open to process aid through our Brethren missionaries there.

This is just another example of the great good done by our interest and support of World Relief.



Photo by Phil Lersch

*Many women await out-patient care at the Brethren Hospital-Clinic in Rajahmundry.*



Photo by Phil Lersch

*Dr. Sujatha Kumar treats a village man at night, as Prasantha (left) and Vijaya Kumar observe.*



Photo by Vijaya Kumar

*Phil Lersch greets a villager late one night, after handing him a bundle of clothing. Prasantha and Nirmala Kumar look on.*



## Let us hear from you!

One of the original purposes of "Church Growth Forum" was to provide a way for Brethren to share with other Brethren the good things that are happening for the glory of the Lord in their local churches. There are many things we can learn from each other about church growth as we implement growth principles in our local churches. So I encourage you to send me your ideas about church growth. Share with us the methods you are using which God is blessing with

results. Share with us the plans and programs you are instituting to reach your growth goals. Share changes of attitude which result in a new desire and willingness to do the task of the church. Send your information to Arden E. Gilmer, 530 College Avenue, Ashland, Ohio 44805.

The following letter is illustrative of the kind of sharing which can be so beneficial to us all. It comes from the Maurertown, Virginia, Brethren Church.



### Maurertown Brethren Church

Dear Arden:

I thought I would send a Church Growth Report to you and for the **Evangelist**. October 3rd was a big day here at Maurertown. It was Rally Day in Sunday School with 155 in attendance. We also had a large crowd for Worship Service. During worship we baptized 8 and received two by letter of transfer. Four married couples were received, and three of those couples were together in the baptismal waters as husband and wife as the pastor baptized each mate. This makes a total of 41 new members here at Maurertown in just over 41 months. Many of these people have been visited by those with "Laymen Alive" training. All four of the new couples received Sunday had been visited by people with this training. Many of our people who have not had this training also worked hard to fill our church on Rally Day.

The Spirit of God is doing great things in our midst, and we know more is yet ahead. The enemy does attack from time to time, but our sovereign Lord claims the victory as His own. New people yet unreached are continuously introduced to many in our church as we seek to reach out with the gospel.

Another exciting aspect of the growth we are experiencing is that these new Christians are growing so fast through the fellowship and commitment of this body of believers. It is amazing to see new Christians sharing their faith so soon, tithing almost immediately, praying for lost loved ones and hungering for the Word. Numerical growth here **has been** accompanied by spiritual growth in nearly every dimension.

This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Yours because His,  
Kent Bennett, Pastor





## Evangelization in Action

by Juan Arregin

**Using the Mobile Evangelistic Unit, Juan Arregin, his wife, and students from Eden Bible Institute extended the message of salvation into new areas of Argentina.**

We traveled to Rincon del Dol, a city in the province of Entre Rios. With us went three students from the Eden Bible Institute. Waiting for us there was another student, Manuela, the "little pastor" of Rincon del Dol.

We wanted all the people of that town to know about Christ. We had a program for the children two hours daily, and then in the evening we shared films and had preaching of the gospel. We were blessed with help from 14 young people from the Soldini church, and for them this was a unique and wonderful experience.

The showing of films was quite an event for the people of this small town, for they do not have electricity (the Mobile Evangelistic Unit has its own generator). We believe it was a great impact and that the Lord will continue to work in those hearts. Two adults and 25 children made decisions for Christ.

When we left Rincon del Dol, we continued on to the village of Maria Teresa with the three girls we started with and Manuela. We placed the evangelistic tent near the place we had it the previous year, and people we already knew were happy to see us return. We remembered especially the fine response of the children the year before, and we again had a good group and can report that 23 children accepted the Lord. Maria Teresa, as the other towns, was most hospitable to the whole team, also.

From there we went to Hughes. For the first time the girls and my wife had to put up the tent, and they almost did it in record time. There was not even one Christian brother to assist, though a young fellow did give a hand. This was a new and unusual experience for the team, but they seemed willing to do whatever was necessary.

This was the first time we had the evangelistic tent in that city and the authorities permitted it to be located in the city park. I believe it was the best location we had the whole time, for it was in the shade from noon on. The team even had to live in the tent, so this was truly beneficial and the Lord's hand truly was in it all. The team continued to be busy afternoons and evenings, and they would lead singing or pray or give testimony—do whatever was asked of them. The Lord gave

us 13 children and 9 adults that accepted Christ as their Savior.

Once we finished there we went to Colon. Here Elsa, one of the Eden Bible Institute students, became physically ill and went through a very critical time. It turned into a beautiful campaign, though, and we had a nice group of children and good attendance at the evening services. The church assisted so well and helped the team in every way, and some wonderful decisions were made for the Lord.

Campaigns continued at Villa Constitucion at the central church. There had been some political unrest, and we were concerned. But the meetings were well attended, with 60 children every day, and the Lord touched hearts so that many decided to follow Christ.

We traveled on to Firmat and Bombal without the students, since they had to return to the Institute at the end of their vacation period. We were concerned about not having enough workers and setting up the tent for a very short period of time, but it truly was worth the efforts. The people were really ready to hear the gospel. The believers were praying in advance of the meetings, and the Holy Spirit was working in a way that persons were surrendering their hearts to Christ and accepting Him as their Savior.

We cannot possibly tell all that the Lord had done for us, nor can we realize all the lives that have been touched. But we can surely say that the Lord was with us and to Him be all the honor and glory forever.

Translated from Testigo Fiel, publication of the Brethren Church in Argentina.



*Pastor Juan Arregin is the national coordinator for the Brethren Church in Argentina.*



# News from the fields

## Colombia

### "Ahora Somos Dos" ("Now we are two")

by Kenneth L. Solomon

These were the exact words spoken to me by a 15-year-old girl. And what a thrilling way that is to begin one's 51st year of life.

Yesterday was my physical birthday that made me a half-century old. Today, Sunday, September 12th, shall long be remembered as the spiritual birthday of Maria Cristina Ruiz. Her mother, Mrs. Synhar de Ruiz has been a child of God now for quite some months. The other four members of the family were not. The appeal to this teenager was to invite the Lord into her life. Then her mother would not be alone in her efforts to win the rest of the family—her husband and two other children.

After the final prayer I was still not certain where this lovely, but quite reserved, young lady stood in her relationship to Christ. She finds it difficult to communicate because she is extremely bashful. Nevertheless, all doubt was gloriously erased from my mind when, as she shook my hand upon leaving the house with her mother, and with eyes glistening with tears of joy, she spoke these parting words: "Now we are two." Now I could go to bed and sleep well, knowing that another had been rescued from Satan's grip and that the mother would now be able to unite

with one of her daughters as she prayed for the other daughter, her son in military service, and her husband.

## Argentina

### Churches Grow

from Testigo Fiel

**Canada de Gomez**, newly established church in 1975 (see the May 1976 Brethren Evangelist, p. 28), already has land and the building materials for a sanctuary. They are presently waiting for the city to approve the blueprints.

But **waiting** is not **standing still**, for the Lord is adding new brethren to the group, with 11 baptized and more receiving the Lord. Already this young church, with the help of the students from the Eden Bible Institute and the facilities of the Evangelistic Mobile Unit, went to Carcarana (another town about 15 miles away) to do personal work of evangelism door-to-door, in addition to showing Christian films.

**Nunez** (the church located in the headquarters building in Buenos Aires) has been receiving great blessings from the Lord and can truly see the Holy Spirit moving among the people. Several new people have been added to the church, and others are attending the services with great interest. The spiritual growth is a distinct factor, beyond counting numbers. We are having wonderful home Bible studies and the people are really witnessing.

## India

### A Personal Testimony

by B. Raja Rao

I was born to Christian parents; however, I was not brought up by my parents, but by an aunt. She was a Hindu; so was I. My marriage was solemnized according to Hindu rites. In the years that passed, I was blessed with three children.

My eldest daughter was born in 1968 and was healthy until her tenth month. She suffered high fever and suffered continually from fits. She was unable to talk and although she was taken to many doctors, there seemed to be no cure.

I prayed to Hindu gods, performed pujas (worship), and gave many offerings. In spite of this and even with spending much money, my daughter was not cured. We were very disappointed and thought that none could cure her. Many preachers came to us, but we never really heard their message. Then in 1975 some Brethren Mission gospel workers came to our house, saw my daughter, and preached the gospel to us. They asked that we simply believe in Jesus. Rev. Vijaya

Kumar anointed our daughter with oil, and his wife examined her and found her to be mentally retarded and dumb. She referred us to a psychiatrist.

The Brethren Mission leaders prayed every day for our daughter, and now she is without fits. Our life is different, too. We have faith in Jesus Christ and are going to church on Sundays. We believe the change in our daughter is truly God's work. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ.



Daughter of B. Raja Rao





## John's Heavy Load

Three small brown heads bent in concentration around the low brown vinyl-topped table on the back porch of Brethren House. John, Eddie, and Amy were busy gluing together craft sticks that would be the cabins for Noah's arks. Ronnie, David, and Billie sat around another table in the room drawing crayon rainbows.

As Phil approached the brown table to inspect the arks, John blurted, "My grandpa's gonna die."

"Oh, is that right?" encouraged Phil.

"Yeah, he's in the hospital."

"I heard he was sick. Tell me what happened," said Phil, as he knelt beside John at the table.

Pointing to his wrist John explained, "You see those things in your arm that the blood goes through. One of those broke in my grandpa's head, and the blood went out. He's pretty bad." At this point John's eyes conveyed his concern to Phil. John, his sister, and his mother live with their grandparents just down the street from Brethren House.

"I cried when they told me he was sick. My sister cried first; then I cried. He's not gonna get well. He's gonna die."

And so this conversation continued between teacher and pupil on Sunday morning around the craft table, as the other children worked on their projects. Phil encouraged the flow of words by his receptive presence and comments.

"You can pray for your grandpa, John. You can pray that he won't hurt too much and ask God to take good care of him," suggested Phil. I'll pray for him, too."

The other children had sensed John's need

to talk to Phil and hadn't interrupted. This conversation had taken priority in the morning's curriculum. There had been no plan for it in the predesigned schedule of activities—no way of knowing about John's need to talk about his hurt. But the setting was right. And now John's need took priority.

What was the setting for this time of talking about what hurt inside? First, all hands were busy with pleasant tasks. Also, the children knew that Phil was interested in what they had to say. He would listen. He would care. And this atmosphere of acceptance and caring was contagious. Because Phil listened and cared, so did the other children. No one interrupted. Even though the children drawing rainbows continued their natural comments to each other, they didn't impose demands on Phil when they realized he was involved in conversation with John. They felt the importance of that shared grief between teacher and pupil. And they felt it because Phil had practiced with them the process of listening to what each one had to tell.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying your heavy loads, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28, TEV). John found rest one Sunday as he and Phil together shared the heavy load of grief.

BRETHREN HOUSE MINISTRIES  
MISSION IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



# auxiliary programs for january

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## signal lights

*written by  
Alberta Holsinger*

**Bible Theme: Walking with Jesus**

### *In Capernaum*

It was Saturday morning, the Jewish Sabbath or holy day. Jesus was in Capernaum. He went to the synagogue, which is the Jewish church.

"We are glad to have you with us, Jesus," said the rabbi. Will you read the Scripture and speak to us?"

Jesus took His place at the front. He read the Scripture. Then He began to speak to the people about God and His love. His voice was strong and pleasant.

The people were amazed. "Why, that's our friend Jesus," said one.

"He speaks as one who knows what He's talking about," said another.

"He speaks with the authority of God," whispered still another.

After the service Jesus went home with Peter. Peter's wife met them at the door. She was crying.

"Mother has a high fever and is very sick," she said.

"Don't worry," Jesus told her.

He went to the mother's bedside. He touched

her. Her fever was gone immediately, and she felt better. She got up and helped her daughter prepare dinner.

That evening a crowd of people gathered outside Peter's house.

"We want to see Jesus," they shouted. "He speaks as one who has come from God. We want Him to teach us. We want Him to heal us."

So all evening Jesus talked with them about God and healed the sick ones.

Very early the next morning Jesus went outside the village. He wanted to be alone to pray.

Later Peter came to Him. "Jesus," he said, "the people are asking for you. They want you to stay here in Capernaum."

"We can't stay," Jesus said. "We must go to other places to preach the good news of the kingdom of God. My message is for all people. That's why I came."

So Jesus continued to travel throughout the country, preaching and teaching and healing.

—Based on Mark 1:21-39; Luke 4:31-44

**Memory Time:** "I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities, also." Luke 4:43

**Project: Sunday School in Malaysia**

## *A Story for Children*

Back and forth, back and forth went the swing. A little boy and a little girl were sitting on it.

David and Jenny Loi saw them.

"Aren't they cute little ones?" said Jenny.

"Yes," answered David. "They are two of the landlady's children. They don't know Jesus."

Jenny nodded. "I know. They worship Tua Peh

Kong. Many people here worship that one they call 'God of Prosperity.'"

"Come on," said David. "Let's tell those children about the true God."

They walked over to the swing.

"Good morning," said David.

*(continued on page 33)*



prepared by  
J. Perry Deeter

## Forgiveness . . . How Cheap?

by Harold J. Sala

A recent press dispatch reports that when a teenage boy was apprehended for murdering a young girl, his first words were, "God will forgive me! God will forgive me!"

It is true that God offers forgiveness. But is God's grace so cheap—so easy—that a murderer can hold a knife with fresh blood on it and be confident that God will forgive? How cheap is God's forgiveness?

The apostle Paul asked the question, "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?" (Romans 6:1). He then answered with an emphatic negative, "God forbid!"

In recent days some of our leading psychologists have become alarmed about the increasing burdens of guilt that many people bear. At the same time they have become acutely interested in the doctrine of forgiveness that has been expounded from the pulpits of the churches.

One of the most outspoken is O. Hobart Mower, presently a research professor in the psychology department of the University of Illinois and past president of the American Psychological Association. In an article entitled "The Almighty's Unmighty Ministers," Mower levels a blast at modern clergymen, charging them with dispensing "cheap grace," "easy forgiveness with no change in conduct," and "faith without repentance." Mower says that this further compounds the problems of guilt because the problem of sin remains in the minds and hearts of men.

Mower hinges his research on three points. He says, first of all, that man is responsible for his actions. When a group from the slums riots and battles police for hours, burning cars and destroying property, Mower cannot write off the incident with circumstances. He doesn't put much stock in the fact that the weather was warm or that the poverty of these rioters caused them to have a chip on their shoulders. Mower says that man is responsible for what he does. You are a free moral agent. No one forces your decision on you. You decide things for yourself.

Mower further says that your conscience produces guilt and isolation. The man who has been stealing from his employer feels uncomfortable around him. He becomes leery of those who work with him. He is fearful and apprehensive that he will be discovered. His actions have violated his conscience and this results in guilt and separation. He can't live with himself; he can't live with those around him. He feels separated from himself and his companions.

The only way to bridge that guilt and separation, according to Mower, is by confession and expiation. In other words, to admit one's guilt and wrong is the first step. But it takes more than this: it takes the willingness to right the wrong that has been done. Here, says Mower, liberal theology has failed to produce real forgiveness.

To all who come to Him, Christ offers a full and complete pardon. But then He says, "Go and sin no more" (John 5:14; 8:11). The psalmist of old expressed a beautiful truth when he said, "For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14).

But the forgiveness of God is linked to the fact that God expects you to do everything in your power to keep from falling into sin. It cost God the very death of His Son to provide the forgiveness you seek. Forgiveness never comes cheap. If we confess our sins to the Savior and are willing to turn from our past to serve Him, we will find His forgiveness. Our guilt will be gone forever. It is God's psychiatry for your life. Prove it for yourself.

"If the Son shall make you free," said Christ, "ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1).

From *Guidelines for Successful Living* by Harold J. Sala. Copyright 1972 by Baker Book House Company and used by permission.



**Ed. note**—With this issue, Perry Deeter completes his work as contributing editor of the Laymen's Inspirational material. We appreciate his diligent efforts and faithfulness during the last two years.

After the first of the year, devotional materials for local Laymen's groups will be supplied by direct mail. Through this regular mailing, Laymen's President Jim Payne will also share information with the groups.

As plans stand at this time, this mailing will be sent only to those contacts listed on pages 82-83 of the 1976 General Conference Annual, who in turn will share the materials with members of their group. If your church does not have a contact person listed, or if the information is incorrect, please send the correct name and address to the Brethren Publishing Company.



## The Church Begins

### Acts 1-5

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we  
all are witnesses."

Acts 2:32

The book of Acts is the exciting story of what happened to the disciples and other followers of Jesus after He left them and went back to heaven. It was written by Luke, who also wrote the third Gospel. Really, this pair of books could be bound as one volume and read as a continuous story.

Acts is rightfully called "The Book of the Acts of the Apostles." The story is told of the apostles and other followers of Jesus; their acts (good and bad, for they were human, too); their relations with one another; and their efforts to tell people around them of Jesus, the Savior of all men who will believe in His sacrificial death, resurrection, ascension and coming again. In the first part of the book Peter is one of the main characters; in the remainder of the book Paul is the leading man.

Luke was a very careful author. He did "fact-finding" before he wrote. It could be said of him that he did his "homework well." Read Luke 1:1-4 and Acts 1:1,2. We do not know what city Luke claimed as home. In Acts 16:10 he used the pronoun "we" for the first time, telling us that he was a traveling companion of Paul. In Colossians 4:14 Paul called him "the beloved physician," so we believe that he was a doctor.

Both the Gospel of Luke and Acts were written to a man named Theophilus. He must have been

a man of some importance to receive such detailed information about Jesus Christ and the events after His ascension. Who this important man was, we really do not know. Many people have guessed about him, but Luke only gave us his name.

The key verse of the book of Acts is 1:8. (Read it together from your Bibles). The word "witness" occurs 30 times in the book, and the words "Holy Spirit" appear 70 times. Witnesses can be a real force in helping to change lives for Christ and His work, through the power the Holy Spirit gives. Christ told His followers to wait in Jerusalem until they were filled with the Holy Spirit—Acts 1:4.

After Jesus ascended into the heavens the disciples returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem to wait for the promise He had made. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus who were in a prayer meeting. There was a sound as of a great wind and something like a tongue of fire appeared over each one. We cannot see the wind nor can we see the Holy Spirit, but we can feel the effect of the wind and we can know the presence of the Spirit if we surrender our lives to Jesus.

After the Pentecost experience Peter was the bold preacher. His theme for each sermon is found in Acts 2:36. (Read it now.) He was not afraid to tell the religious leaders that they had killed Jesus Christ, who was the Savior of men, no matter what their race or color.

Chapter 3 tells us about a crippled man that was healed. Be sure and read this story. The man, 40 years old, had never walked, and he depended on friends to carry him to a gate of the Temple each day so he could beg a few coins with which to feed himself. What a wonderful gift Peter and John gave to him through the power of the Holy Spirit and calling on the name of Jesus. He did not have to have any therapy treatments but was strong enough to walk immediately. Then what happened? Peter and John were put in prison. (Read Acts 4:1-3.)

The religious authorities who arrested Peter and John considered them "uneducated, common men" (4:13). Peter and John had not been to the school for rabbis or Jewish teachers but "they (the

### Planning the Meeting

This month we begin our study of the book of Acts. Chapters 1 through 5 is the section for this meeting.

For the February meeting read Acts chapters 6 through 12.

Bring Bibles to the meetings and have different girls read the suggested verses in the topic for discussion.

Read the greetings from Mrs. Gilmer, the National Patroness.

Use the missions story "The Wrong Word" as you wish, but **use it**.



rulers) recognized that they (Peter and John) had been with Jesus." Do your friends know that you belong to Jesus?

Chapter 5 of Acts is not a very pleasant story, but it does teach us to give to God with no deceit or holding back of anything, for **all** that we are is God's. We have the use of life for a short time and then must give account of it to the One whose we claim to be.

## The Wrong Word

In Acts 1:4 we read the account of the followers of Jesus speaking in other languages after the Holy Spirit came upon them. The people listening heard the gospel story in their own languages. When missionaries go to other countries to tell

people about Jesus, they must learn the language of that tribe or country. This is a difficult task, and many times takes months and even years.

A story, which apparently has several versions, tells of a missionary who had been studying a new language for many months and finally felt that he could talk with the people. He went to a food shop and asked for a can of condensed milk; at least he thought he did. The shopkeeper shook his head.

"I do not have any," he said.

"Yes you do, sir, right up there," he said and pointed to a row of cans of milk on a shelf.

"O, **condensed** milk," the grocer said with a smile. "You asked for **condemned** milk."

The missionary realized that he had been telling the people that unless they believed on Jesus Christ they would be "**condensed**." What a difference one word can make!

### From our national patroness

Dear Girls,

As we begin another new year it is a time to pause and examine our lives. It is a time to look at where we have been and to determine where we want to go—a time to set goals for our lives and to decide what we would like to accomplish.

I would like to suggest that as Christians we ought to examine our spiritual lives to see in what areas we have grown and to praise God for it. We ought also to look at the areas in which we have failed, ask God's forgiveness and begin again.

Following are three areas that could be improved or maybe even added to your life this year.

**Daily Devotions.** This is a very important part of a Christian's life. Many people like to begin their day reading a few verses of Scripture, thinking about how the verses apply to them and spending time in prayer talking to God and listening to Him also.

**Personal Witness.** What do your actions and your language say to your friends? Do you tell your friends about the Lord Jesus and what He means to you? Does His Holy Spirit control your life?

**Fruit of the Spirit.** If we have been born again, God has given us the Holy Spirit. And since He has given us the Holy Spirit we should expect the supernatural fruit in our lives which is described in Galatians 5:22-23.

As your National Patroness, my prayer for you as SMM groups and as individual Christian girls is that you will grow and mature in the Lord in 1977.

Love in Jesus,  
Roberta Gilmer

### Signal Lights Program

(continued from page 30)

The children smiled. What a surprise—grown-ups who had time to talk to them!

"Good morning," they answered.

"Have you ever seen this book?" asked David, showing them his Bible.

They shook their heads.

"It's a very special book to us," continued David. "It tells us about Jesus, who is God's Son. Do you like stories?"

"Oh, yes," the children said together.

"Would you like to hear a story about Jesus?" David asked.

"Yes," agreed both children eagerly.

David and Jenny sat down on the ground. The children jumped off the swing and sat down near them.

"Many, many years ago," began David, "God, the true God, wanted to show His love to all people. So He sent His Son Jesus—not as a grown man, but as a tiny baby."

Other children were playing nearby. When they saw David and Jenny talking with the little boy and girl they, too, quietly joined the group sitting on the ground. They listened carefully as David told how that baby grew to be a man—a man who loved and blessed children.

David reached in his pocket and took out some leaflets. "These papers tell more about Jesus. Would you like to have one?"

"I would," declared each child.

"If I give you one, will you read it?" asked David.

"Oh, yes!" promised all the children.

"After you've read it, will you share it with your friends?" David wanted to know.

"I will," answered each one.

"Then this is for you and you and you . . .," said David as he gave each a leaflet.

The children ran home with their papers.

"Now they have heard about Jesus," said Jenny. "Perhaps soon we can tell them more about Him."

As David and Jenny left the yard, David said, "We will pray for those children every day."



### The Greatest Force

When God wants a great work done in the world or a great wrong righted, he goes about it in a very unusual way. He doesn't stir up his earthquakes or send forth his thunderbolts. Instead, he has a helpless baby born, perhaps in a simple home and of some obscure mother. And then God puts the idea into the mother's heart, and she puts it into the baby's mind. And then God waits. The greatest forces in the world are not the earthquakes and the thunderbolts. The greatest forces in the world are babies.

—E. T. Sullivan

Dear Girls,

I think of one specific baby who was born in a cattle-shed to a poor, quiet, young mother. God told her the baby was going to be a very special child, and the boy seemed to learn it, too. He was a good child, who grew up rather uneventfully, helping his dad in his business of woodworking and carpentry.

#### A Dad's Tribute to His Son

by Rev. Jim Black

To see that hair does not affect  
the brain it covers;  
To see that clothing will not  
change a heart;  
To see that man's equal creation  
is more than an ideal;  
I learned all of this, and more,  
from Bob.

To be able to share a vital faith  
without religious restraint;  
To be able to be a real friend  
to all I meet;  
To be able to laugh with people  
and to cry with them;  
I learned all of this, and more,  
from Bob.

To pray earnestly and devoutly  
without coat and tie;  
To worship and trust Almighty God  
without given form;  
To love and serve Jesus Christ  
and still be human;  
I learned all of this, and more,  
from Bob.

When I finally grow up, I want  
to be just like him.  
You see, I'm his dad.

He probably knew for a long time what the great work was that God wanted him to do, and at the age of 30, this young man left his parents and brothers and sisters to work on God's plan full-time. Three years later he was murdered. God, who planned for this baby to be born to do a great work in the world, also planned for him to be killed. And after only three years of working full-time on God's plan.

That's what God wanted, and nobody could change it. Not even that young man himself.

That baby and that young man were one—Jesus. He knew what God expected of Him, and He committed His life to do it.

As the poet suggests, each of us came into the world to do a task. Surely not all of us can perform a "great work in the world," but the small ones are also important. Don't try to learn exactly what your task will be in life, for that is impossible to know. But I do think we should each try to find **pieces** of what God wants of us. One part is for certain, that of sharing our faith in Jesus with all the people we can. If Christ is the most important part of your life, as He is mine, it will be easy to want to share it.

I challenge you all to think about what you may be doing in the future. What **can** you do? What do you **like** to do? What gifts has God given you? Since Christmas is the time we celebrate God's gift of His Son Jesus, why don't you celebrate the individual gifts He has given to you. I don't mean just the gifts of music or preaching—there are many others. Helping others, being hospitable, having great faith, giving encouragement, sharing your faith, giving money to the Lord, and having knowledge are only a few. I urge you to read I Corinthians 12, where the gifts are described. Actually, whatever you can do well for the strengthening of Christians may be considered a spiritual gift.

I don't want to preach about gifts, nor am I equipped to, but when you remember God's gift this season, think about yours and the tasks you may have in life.

God bless you all. May you each have a better understanding of what Christmas really means this month.

Through Christ our Savior,  
Nancy Ronk



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an abundance  
of Joy  
because of God's gift  
of Life  
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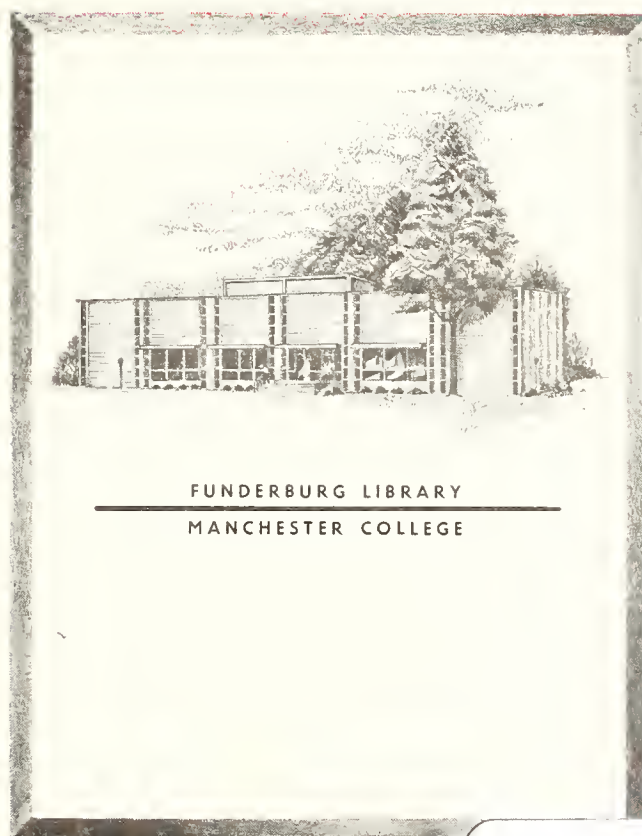






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